



THE CORD WEEKLY



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A bad note

In protest of their dean, disgruntled music students make a plea for action to their WLUSU Board

JENNIFER ASSELIN
News Editor

After disgruntled music students raised concern, an emergency Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union Board of Directors meeting was held this past Monday with the intention of proposing a motion opposing the rehiring of the current Dean of Music, Dr. Charles Morrison.

Much debate ensued at the meeting with the outcome resulting in a motion passed stating that WLUSU would submit the results of a petition against the rehiring of Morrison to the Evaluation Committee for the Dean of Music by the deadline of 4:30 pm Monday, November 17th. Also included in the motion was that a letter from WLUSU President Dan Hermanbe submitted to the committee by the deadline

and that the Union would encourage, support and facilitate independent submissions to this and future committees.

Although a resolution was found, music students present were not happy with the results.

"Basically WLUSU is telling Dr. Morrison to be nice and we get to put up with the bullshit..."

-Second year music student

"Basically [WLUSU] is telling [Dr. Morrison] to be nice and we get to put up with the bullshit for the next four years," stated one angry second year music student

who asked to remain nameless as did the majority of the students who attended the meeting for fear of reprimand from Morrison.

"It's just watered down," said Darren Kools, fifth year Honours Music Education student, of the passed motion.

Continued on page 2

Women seek sanctions vs. Cord

Members of Women's Centre want ethics committee to monitor Cord content in light of gay club articles

FRASER KING
Staff Writer

The Women's Centre has filed a formal complaint about *The Cord* with the advertising and sponsorship committee of WLU regarding sexual ads in *The Cord*.

Members from the Women's Centre have expressed a number of concerns in addition to the advertisements, notably about the 'Gay Escapades' feature.

Robyn Turk, a member of the Women's Centre, addressed a number of her concerns in a written statement of which the most pressing were "The highlighted quotes from the 'dirty old man' are extremely offensive and demeaning to women" in which the word "cunt" was used. Turk also found the "name that gender" references offensive, mentioning that "female bodies come in all shapes and sizes. By labeling the

bodies as 'convincingly female' the author is buying into the dominant gender idea that women should look a certain way."

The Editor-in-Chief of *The Cord*, Wilbur McLean, stated that he was skeptical of the complaints, noting that "I don't think [*The Cord*] did anything wrong." McLean clarified by stating that "I didn't see anything that was broken insofar as the OPA (Operating Procedure Agreement) is concerned," and further mentioned that "[the offensiveness] is not a problem with *The Cord*, it is a

"The highlighted quotes from the 'dirty old man' are extremely offensive to women."

-Robyn Turk

problem with society in that the reactions we had were real, and not atypical of an average person."

Turk explained her position by stating that a "suggestion regarding corrective measures, or a means of preventing further demeaning

Continued on page 3



Thomas Thompson

It's that time of year again. Waterloo saw its first snowfall early last Thursday morning, leaving the city a beautiful shade of white, but causing the closing of St. Michael's school. See page 3 for more.

WLU to Kitchener?

WLU declares intention to move faculty of social work to downtown

WILBUR MCLEAN
Editor-in-Chief

On Monday, Laurier announced its intention to move the school's esteemed faculty of social work to downtown Kitchener, in the building that used to house St. Jerome's high school.

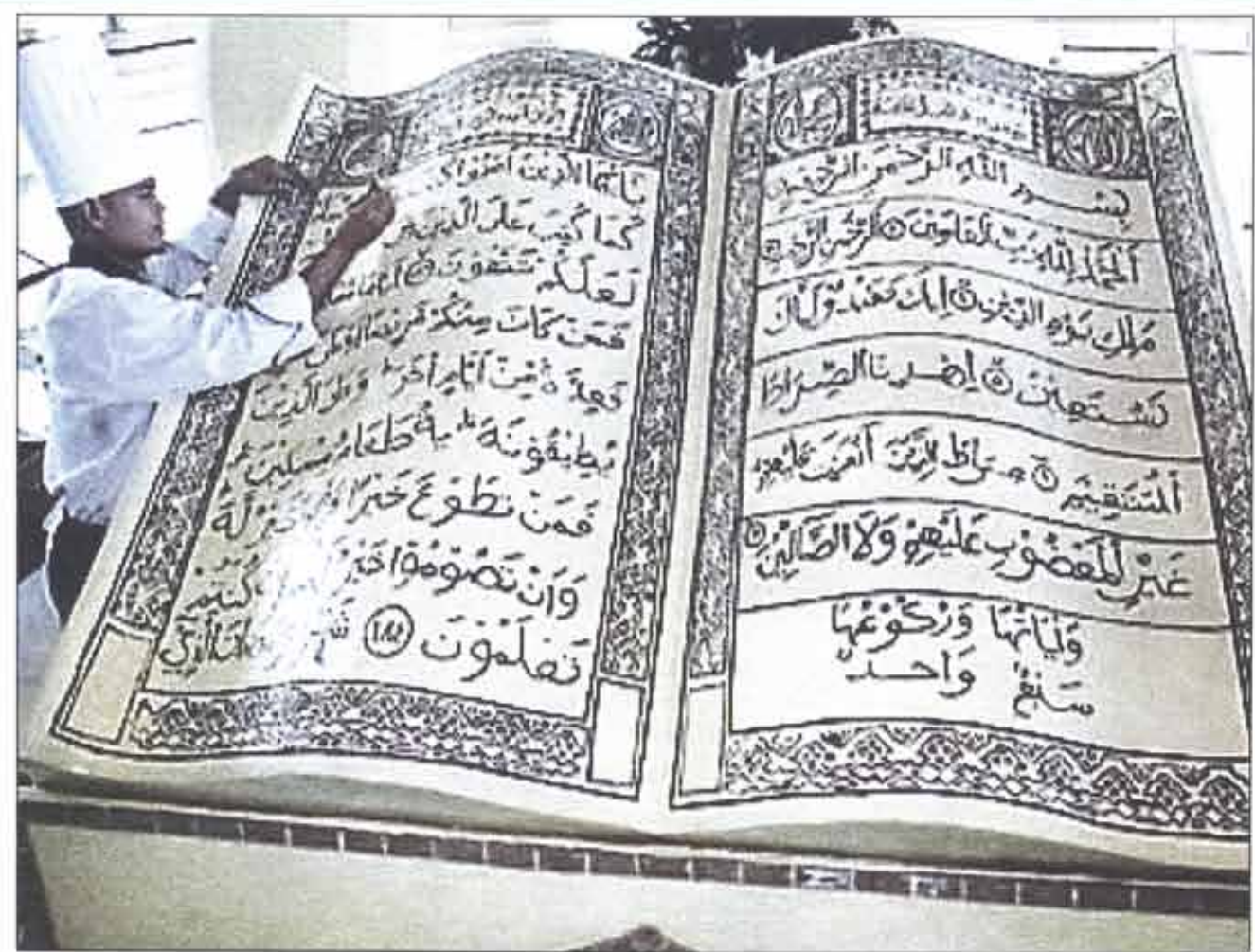
WLU made an offer to buy the building, which has been empty for the past 14 years, conditional upon a feasibility study to determine the costs of altering the building to fit Laurier's needs. Office space, classroom space and meeting rooms all have to be consid-

ered in the study before Laurier finalizes the offer made to the private developer who currently owns the land.

Increased size and prime location were the two major factors involved in making the offer.

"There are no prospects of building a new facility on campus for the next eight to ten years," said Luke Fusco,

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Contributed Photo

This oversized Qu'ran holds the holy words for Muslims. This week's feature takes a look at various year-end holidays for a number of religions, including Islam's Ramadan. See page 13 for more.



Students are no longer able to bring snacks like Andrew Pike (above) has, into exams. The only item accepted will be bottled water unless students make arrangements due to their own health concerns.

Jennifer Asselin

You can't eat here

Students only allowed to bring water into exams

FRASER KING
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, November 12th, the Laurier Senate agreed to update the Laurier examination policy. The updated policy allows for only bottled water to be brought into the exam room; no other food or drink is allowed. Students that have special needs are required to obtain medical documentation prior to the exam and present it to the presiding officer of the exam.

Rowland Smith, WLU Vice President: Academic, noted that "there is a flood of material coming into the exam room and the update should minimize the clutter and distraction." Smith further noted that "it is not appropriate to be eating a sandwich during an exam. It is also an issue of hygiene."

While Smith had doubts about how effective the policy would be in preventing cheating, "people who are determined to cheat will find a way to do so, one way or another," he mentioned that the new policy would "make the exam process as simple, as clean, and as non-distracting as possible."

Student Senator Sarah Carroll said that she is completely against the new policy,

mentioning that it is "useless."

"The reason for the update was originally a concern about students cheating, but the administration could not produce any data to demonstrate how food affects cheating," noted Carroll. "Cheaters will find some other way to cheat. This update accomplishes nothing," she continued.

Director of Health Services, Ingrid Goll, stated that "the policy is ridiculous. We shouldn't be inundated with people looking for notes. It seems like a waste of our time." Goll further noted that "people should not go for

"Cheaters will find some other way to cheat. This update accomplishes nothing."

-Sarah Carroll, Student Senator

hours without food. Taking into account travel time, some people would be going without food for four hours. It is unhealthy, especially during a stressful time."

Goll was concerned that students would suffer by only having water, noting that "water is nothing, it has no calories. At the very least they should have a spot at the front of the exam room where people can buy something, anything, to eat at cost."

Carroll also voiced her concern about students as she mentioned that "many of the people present at the Senate meeting had tea or coffee, and the Senate meetings are only two hours long."

The new policy is currently in effect and students with special needs can get medical documentation from health services.

When the music's over

Continued from cover

WLUSU Directors Rishi Kumar and Anthony Piscitelli called for the emergency meeting after conducting an unofficial survey of music students in which 37% of the 124 students surveyed said that they had a negative impression of Morrison and 30% had a neutral impression.

There was a call for comments from concerned students sent out October 29th as a notice was made that Morrison's term would be ending June 30th, 2004 and university procedures say that an Evaluation Committee must be established to evaluate the work of the employee in question with comments from the university community being welcomed.

Music students were in attendance as the meeting took place and the motion was presented. The concerned students shared their stories of the Dean with those voting members in order to shed light on their situation.

Students cited problems with Morrison not respecting students, not paying adequate attention to students with disabilities and not consulting students on the status of the music lounge and the fact that the Dean plans on getting rid of the lounge all together.

"As a first year student, I have not heard one positive

thing from senior students," said one student. "I've heard, 'don't get on his bad side or he'll make your life a living hell.'"

Other students in attendance praised the Dean for his work in music therapy and one student went so far as to say, "it would be a huge



The dude in the middle is the Dean of Music, Dr. Charles Morrison... wow.

risk taking him out and putting in someone new."

Some members of the BOD were skeptical of passing such a harsh motion that would see WLUSU opposed to the rehiring of Morrison and so the Directors finally reached an agreement on the amended motion with it being passed with nine in favor, three opposed and

three abstentions.

"There are two sides to this story," pointed out Herman, who was opposed to the motion. "Are we just passing a motion for the sake of passing a motion?" he asked.

This seemed to be the sentiment of a few members as the motion that was passed was one of ambivalence but was a motion that would help the music students nonetheless.

"We asked them to take a stand on the issue and they just made a motion to pass on their comments," said a displeased first year music student after the meeting.

When told of the disappointment of the music students in attendance, Herman had a positive outlook on the situation. "I think it was really constructive that they voiced their concerns to their student representatives," he said. "But we have to act on behalf of all students before we rush into judgements."

Herman went on to explain that he had brought up concerns about the Dean at a meeting last Friday. "That's my job," said Herman. "I don't need a motion to do that."

The Evaluation Committee for the Dean of Music, Chaired by Rowland Smith, WLU's Vice-President: Academic, will meet on Wednesday to discuss Morrison's position.

News Bites



WLUSP BOD member resigns

Earlier this month, WLUSP Director Adam Fox resigned his position as Director.

Fox made his resignation official in an email that was sent to the five remaining WLUSP board members and WLUSP President Laura Jardine.

Fox's email simply stated, "Just to make things formal, I wanted to send a note to all of you to say that I, Adam Fox officially have quit my position as WLUSP BOD member."

Fox hadn't attended a board meeting in over a month.

The resignation leaves the organization without a full board, which has been a reoccurring theme for the organization. Two BOD members, Wayne Money and Jeevan Bains resigned in September. Fox, along with Bryden Gage and Mike D'Aloisio was hired in September.

Heinbecker returns to KW

Paul Heinbecker, a prominent Canadian on the international scene and a Waterloo Lutheran graduate, is returning home to Laurier after a distinguished career as a member of the Canadian Foreign Service.

Heinbecker will be coming to Laurier as the Director

of the Laurier Centre for Global Relations, Governance and Policy. As well, Heinbecker will be taking up a position as Senior Research Fellow at CIGI (Centre for International Governance Innovation).

In a statement released by Wilfrid Laurier University, Rowland Smith, Vice President: Academic said, "We are delighted to have someone with Paul Heinbecker's extraordinarily varied and distinguished experience in the City of Waterloo to further the work of the Laurier Centre."

Heinbecker's accomplishments are truly outstanding. His resume includes stints as Chief Foreign Policy Advisor and speechwriter for Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Ambassador to Germany and his role as Canada's Permanent Resident and Ambassador to the United Nations. It is because of his long and distinguished career that Dr. Robert Roseheart, Wilfrid Laurier University President and Vice-Chancellor believes that Heinbecker will make be a fantastic asset to the Laurier community.

Roseheart believes that having somebody of Heinbecker's qualifications associated with Laurier will go along way to improving the academic quality and reputation of the university.

Uncanny High Temperature Forecast: Wild and wacky weather

WEDNESDAY

Rain
High 13°C
Low 3°C
P.O.P. 91%



THURSDAY

Variable cloudiness
High 8°C
Low 2°C
P.O.P. 30%



FRIDAY

Variable cloudiness
High 10°C
Low 3°C
P.O.P. 30%



SATURDAY

Variable cloudiness
High 10°C
Low 4°C
P.O.P. 40%



SUNDAY

Cloudy
High 13°C
Low 8°C
P.O.P. 30%



Sexy ACE posters get flushed

On-campus entrepreneurial club ACE distributes controversial posters

BLAIR FORSYTH-STARK
Staff Writer

Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship (ACE) Laurier is dealing with the repercussions of controversial posters and a themed party.

The posters, featuring a young woman dressed in a school girl outfit, were used to advertise a "School Girls and Player" party at The Wax, a club in downtown Kitchener.

The Women's Centre, some Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union Board of Directors members and other campus clubs felt that not only did ACE break the rules governing campus clubs but that their posters and the theme of the party could be deemed offensive.

In an interview, Marie McCrudden and Robyn Turk, the Women's Centre's Events

and Issues Co-ordinators, said that the theme was "reducing women to school girls and children" and that it was "promoting the idea that men should want to pickup little girls."

ACE Laurier responded to the criticism by donating all of the money raised by the

"I didn't realize [the ACE logo] had to be there; it was a complete oversight on our part."

-Nicole Almond, President ACE Laurier

event to a local women's charity, Anselma House, a shelter for women and children who come from violent situations. "We apologize for offend-

ing anyone, that was not the intent," said Nicole Almond, President of ACE Laurier.

When asked about ACE's donation, Turk said "it doesn't make it right but it's a commendable response." Along with the questionable theme of the party, ACE also broke several rules in the creation of these posters. Neglecting to put their logo, the WLUSU logo and the Union stamp on the posters, were indications that the Union did not approve them.

There has also been some talk as to whether ACE may lose their poster privileges.

Dan Herman, WLUSU President, stated "that the consequences are as of yet undetermined," but should be decided within a few days, at which point in time ACE will be dealt with. Herman indicated that ACE broke several policies and as a result should deal with the consequences.

"All clubs from this organization, should positively represent all members of the community and foster a positive image," said

Herman.

In response to whether or not ACE should lose their poster privileges, McCrudden and Turk responded that they didn't feel that that was necessary but that ACE should be "following policies and thinking about what [they] are promoting."



"I didn't realize [the ACE logo] had to be there; it was a complete oversight on our part," said Almond in response to one of the violations. As far as having the

posters approved by WLUSU, "it was not an oversight but a time issue." Almond also indicated that the people responsible for the poster have been dealt with internally.

While the fate of ACE's poster privileges is still undecided, it is clear that the real issue here is not the logistics of following policy but rather the entire theme of a party that was used to profit the organization.

"Be sexy as an adult, not as a kid," said McCrudden.

"It's not a good thing to be promoting," says Turk. While "there is nothing wrong with sexuality, it's the exploitation of it," that troubled the Women's Centre and other Laurier students.

FSW on the move

Continued from cover

more faculty, more students, a better a program."

Moving to Kitchener would also allow social work students to be closer to the school's 39 agencies located in the city, primarily in the downtown core.

The conditional offer expires in January, with the feasibility study expected to be com-

pleted by early January of 2004, according to Fusco.

The City of Kitchener will pitch in \$20,000 to help cover the costs of the feasibility study. Kitchener has been soliciting local post-secondary institutions to expand to the downtown area in an attempt to revitalize the city's core.

The earliest the school will move to its new location is September of 2006.

Snow wreaks local havoc

Last weeks snow storm causes cancelled classes and power outages

APRIL CUNNINGHAM
Staff Writer

The first snowfall of the season that stormed through Ontario last Thursday caught many students by surprise. High winds gusting up to 81 km/h snapped down power lines and brought over 20 cm of snow.

While many schools throughout the region were closed, WLU remained open and classes were held as usual with the exception of those held at the St. Michael's Campus.

Dr. Robert Rosehart, President of WLU, said the closure was due to a Waterloo North Hydro outage, which affected the north side of University Ave. for the better part of the day.

Tiffany Taylor, a second-year archaeology student, was surprised to wake up and see the snow after going to bed to a thunderstorm and unseasonably warm temperatures.

"I don't mind the snow,"

she said, "it's the wind I don't like." She added that one of the worst things about winter in Waterloo is that residents do not always shovel their sidewalks, making it difficult to make the daily trek to school.

"It was practically impossible to cross the street... it took forever."

-Erica Armstrong, second year Communication Studies

Other students seemed only mildly inconvenienced by the sudden burst of winter.

"I was a little disappointed," said Mike Demaiter, a part-time business student in first year. But he knew it wouldn't last long.

Patches of power outages also affected some traffic lights, including those at the hectic intersection of King

and University.

"It was practically impossible to cross the street," said Erica Armstrong, a second year student in Communication Studies, "It took forever."

Compared to the surrounding community and region, Laurier's campus had the least worries during the storm.

The Record reported that icy roads and white out conditions resulted in nearly 100 relatively minor crashes in the Waterloo region, while emergency crews were kept busy cleaning up fallen trees and power lines throughout the city.

Northfield Drive and Erb Street were closed outside city limits. In nearby Perth County, OPP closed Highway 23 from Listowel to Highway 7, and Road 119 from Stratford to Milverton.

By the end of Friday, most of the snow had melted but the prelude to the Christmas season left residents of Waterloo with a grim reminder of the ruthlessness and fickle nature typical of winter in Ontario.

Fallout from escapades

Continued from cover

and offensive Cord content would be the implementation of a human rights committee that advises student publications about potentially offensive content. Turk suggested "that all Cord writers and editors undergo sensitivity training with an independently trained, third party individual" to "specifically look out for sexist, hetero-sexist, racist, ageist, ableist [sic] attitudes and content."

McLean, when asked about implementing a committee or officer stated that

such a thing "is censorship, simply."

McLean further noted that "reactions to the 'Gay Escapades' feature were overall positive, especially from the most important group, the gay community of WLU."

Turk was similarly positive about the intentions of the article, noting that "I think that informing readers about the gay culture and community of WLU and K-W is a worthwhile and meaningful endeavor." Turk continued her complaint of *The Cord*, noting that "I would urge *The Cord* to expand

their definition of inappropriate content."

When questioned about the offensive content of the advertisements, McLean noted that "[*The Cord*] would prefer to not run them, but as a not-for-profit organization we need the money" further qualifying that "there is no way they could stop it, [the advertisements] do no breach the code of conduct."

A meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday between *The Cord* representatives, the Women's Centre, and the advertising and sponsorship committee of WLU.

Bag o' crime

FIRE DEPT RESPONSE

1040 HRS MON NOV 10/03
Waterloo Fire Dept responded to an alarm at Bouckaert Hall. The cause of the alarm was determined to be malfunctioning louvers in the generator room.

THEFT UNDER \$5000 1830

- 2000 HRS MON NOV 10/03
A student reported that her lap top computer went missing after she left it behind in a classroom for a period of time.

THEFT UNDER \$5000 NOV

03/03 - NOV 10/03
Person(s) unknown took a computer from an office in the Science Building.

THEFT UNDER \$5000 TUE

NOV 11/03 - FRI NOV 14/03
Person(s) unknown broke into three lockers in the men's change room at the Athletic Complex and stole some money.

SUSPICIOUS PERSONS 0130

HRS SAT NOV 15/03
Officers responded to the

Bricker Academic Building after receiving a report of two males in the lounge area. When officers arrived they could not be located. A thorough search of the building and surrounding area was conducted with negative results.

THEFT UNDER \$5000 THU

NOV 13/03 - FRI NOV 14/03
A student reported that some money had been removed from her purse while it had been left in a classroom in the Aird Building.

CAUSE DISTURBANCE 2345

HRS SAT NOV 15/03
Officers responded to Wilf's after receiving a report of a fight in progress. The fight had been broken up by the time officers arrived. The matter will be forwarded to the Judicial Affairs Council.

MISCHIEF SAT NOV 15/03 -

SUN NOV 16/03
Person(s) unknown entered the University Stadium press box and damaged a door in the process.



The comments made by the man on the right and subsequently printed in *The Cord* have drawn the ire of some WLU women.

THE CORD WEEKLY

The tie that binds since 1926

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"If I was a guy, I'd jerk off, like, 15 times a day."
- Jess McLaughlin, Student Life Editor

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-SJS and the Judean People's Front

I can't believe The RZA cancelled his concert because he had "lung problems". If you would stop smoking so much marijuana, you wouldn't have these lung problems; you wouldn't... Christine says she wants a birthday mention. I'll give her one just because at her age, she won't have many left. Happy Birthday Christine! See, I was going to put "birthday shout-out" until I realized how much I hated the term "shout-out". How stupid. And how many idiots do you hear on the radio giving their friends "shout-outs" all this time? It's foolish. Stupid people using stupid terminology. How much longer until I get to rock the boat on vacation? C'mon, you know Jamie is stupid. I always thought he was. He's not worth it. -WMM

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All letters to the editor must be signed and submitted with the author's name, student identification number, and telephone number. Letters must be received by noon Tuesday on disk, or via e-mail at letters@wlusp.com with the subject heading of "Cord letter". Letters must be typed or easily legible and may not exceed 350 words. The Cord reserves the right to edit any letter for brevity and clarity. Spelling and grammar will be corrected. The Cord reserves the right to reject any letter, in whole or in part.

The Cord reserves the right not to publish material that is deemed to be libelous or in contravention with the Cord's Code of Ethics or journalistic standards.

Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editorial Board, The Cord, WLUSP, WLU or Hamilton Web Printing.

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If I were Wyclif, I wouldn't come back

Katie West corrects T.S. Eliot, insisting that for university students, April is not the cruellest month compared to November



Arts Editor

Katie West

November is one of those months when it is especially difficult to muster the willpower to get out of a warm bed. December, January and February are close contenders for the 'damn this wretched alarm clock month' title, but I'd say November has a uniqueness, a combination of characteristics that raises its stock as an anti-cheerful, anti-energy month.

This holds especially true for students. Around the middle-to-late period of the month comes the culmination of the seemingly coordinated efforts of professors to screw us all over. It is highly likely, I think, that they hold a meeting, a convention perhaps, where they get out their schedules and look over the blank calendar squares of October, glance fleetingly at the empty lines of early November, then one of them randomly says, so, "is November 20th good for everyone?" And so it's decided: you have five term

papers or seminars or tests due in a ridiculously short bracket of time. Or, if you're lucky, you have a crushing combination of all three, still due in the same week of course.

Add to this rammed notion of due dates the no holiday factor (except for Remembrance Day). Thanksgiving feasts are long gone, and so are the pleasant reminders of a relaxing holiday in the form of a leftover turkey sandwich. Christmas is a dim light that flickers in the future, overshadowed by looming exams and more due dates. So throw

Around the middle-to-late period of the month comes the seemingly coordinated efforts of professors to screw us all over.

your hands up in exasperation and take a much-needed break, right?

But you are limited here too: you probably won't go outside. November is a transitory month where Mother Nature really can't

make up her mind, which perhaps throws us all a little off. Sun? Rain? Hail? What the hell's going on? As the weather changes its temperament with the consistency of a teenage girl, it is only natural that we feel a little less than settled.

As motivations run low, kitchen cupboards gradually empty out in the "I'll get groceries after Christmas" mentality, and students find themselves more convinced that tuna and rice cakes make a satisfactory dinner. "I'm so hungry but I have nothing to eat," becomes a familiar line, but it's hard to muster the energy to go out and do something about it. And don't even start with the money factor, no one has any, we all know that. Take the implications of this a touch further: no one even wants Christmas to come. Are you going to pay for your gifts in drops of blood, or perhaps the lint or Chapstick in your pocket?

The kicker, though, is that it seems there are only about three or four solid hours of daylight in November ("daylight" of course referring to those mid-afternoon hours when the sky is a lighter shade of freakishly eerie grey). The resulting effect of this is an overwhelming desire to be out of bed by never, and if you do make it to class, back in bed by 7:30pm. The good thing is though... it's all uphill from here, baby.

The War on Iraq: more spun than speedfreaks

A war of PR and power aphrodisiacs can mask the true political and economic motives to changing a country's regime



This is bizarre...

Dillon Moore

After months of guerrilla attacks, the United States has finally set out its schedule for the turnover of power to the Iraqis. I can't imagine there are many in Canada, regardless of their stance on the war in the first place, who aren't hoping for the turnover to be a success. To the extent that it can be a success, of course, after years of repression and violence, and the destruction of expensive infrastructure and priceless antiquities. But if the country is able to gain some measure of the peace and security we generally take for granted, it would be more than worth having to put up with all the war hawks smugly asserting, "I told you so."

In the lead-up to the war, I remember a number of such hawks demanding to know how those of us in opposition to the war could take such a position, knowing the oppressiveness of the Hussein regime. To this I always found myself asking them if they really had faith that the

current US administration was up to the worthy task they put before them. All other political motivations aside, is the current US administration, working in concert with the Pentagon, at all likely to be the benevolent bringer of peace that it would like to be perceived as?

The motives that those in favour of the war attributed to Bush and Blair, if ascribed to fictional characters in a book, would be taken as deceptively one-dimensional. It's impossible to accept the image of the just, righteous leader, burdened but never crushed by the load of responsibility. Human beings are rarely so monochromatic.

It's impossible to accept the image of the just, righteous leader. Human beings are rarely so monochromatic.

In the '70s, Henry Kissinger prolonged and expanded the Vietnam War but still had the time to turn glib phrases, such as, "power is the ultimate aphrodisiac". Narcissistic tendencies

exist in all people, and while they don't automatically negate good intentions, it makes no sense to pretend they don't exist.

The trust placed in institutions seems even more misguided than the trust placed in our leaders. John LeCarre's *The Looking Glass War* – about as far from Bond as spy books get – presents what seems a far truer picture. An understaffed, under-funded British government department sends an inept dupe into Soviet territory in search of information. They look past his incapability and focus on the necessity of the mission; they send him to his doom, but justify it in the name of freedom and security. The reader, on the other hand, is given a full enough view to see that the real motivating principles are fiscal and jurisdictional – the raising of dusty limbs to prove their functionality. Media outlets rightly identified Bush's jet landing as a goofy public relations stunt, but they didn't comment on its greater significance. If Bush Jr. can climb to the heights of Commander-in-Chief, what sort of loons and screw-ups occupy such relatively minor ranks of captain and general? And as the war drags on and the reservists are called up, how will the declining level of professionalism in the US ranks affect the Iraq situation?

In a matter of years we'll have some sense of whether or not bombs and bullets were able to shape the rough-hewn ends of this war. For the sake of the real people behind the walls of PR, I hope that some good might come of the whole mess.

Cord Opinion: Your morals aren't universal, so don't judge us based on them

So long, Jean! Flag-waving for pride and patriotism



Extra-value spiel

Brendan Jones

Ding dong, the wicked Chrétien, the wicked Chrétien is dead.

Well, okay maybe he's not dead, but at least the 'We Love Jean Poutine' Liberal tribute last Thursday moved us one step closer to Chrétien leaving office. Granted this was as much of a tribute as it was a sigh of relief for the Liberals, having had to endure another term of Chrétien-style partisan within-and-without-his-own-party leadership.

So after ruling our country for a decade, what kind of legacy did Chrétien leave? You won't hear much about the less than favorable 'legacy', as everyone under the sun is struggling to get a piece of the big patronage pie that Chrétien is handing out... but I will always remember him as a socialist Santa Clause. He made a list and checked it twice; he found out that Paul Martin was naughty and that Paul Gagliano, Bombardier, Yvon Duhaime, and the Auberge de Grand-Mère hotel were nice. He kept the GST while we were sleeping, and ratified a plan-less Kyoto, sucking money out of real problems while we were awake. Oh, and you better not pout, you better not cry... or you'll be forced out of cabinet like Paul Martin or pepper-sprayed like 1997 Vancouver APEC protestors: that's why.

He traveled the world stuffing gifts from his CIDA bag of goodies down Third World chimneys. The Liberal caucus were effectively his elves: he used them to make all his toys. But now as Santa Claus is leaving town and the head elf is set to take over the toy factory in January,

things might not get any better boys and girls.

When I opened my mailbox last Friday, already awash with Christmas shopping flyers in mid-November, I discovered that Santa and the elves are already churning out their propaganda too. Neatly tucked at the bottom of the box was a lovely pamphlet printed on heavy stock, three-colour paper with no return postage. The pamphlet assured me that by donating to the Liberals I would "help ensure that each and every Canadian will always be heard." I guess if I donated to the PC, Alliance, or Green parties I wouldn't be one of the "people who speak up" and show what "democracies are built on." The Grits were also nice enough to remind me that in a democracy "important events" like their Leadership Convention "truly represent the will of every Canadian." All was not lost, however, as they did ask me what Canada meant to me.

When I opened my mailbox, I discovered that Santa and the elves are already churning out their propaganda.

For a while I contemplated actually filling out the form, but then the next day when I opened up my mailbox, lo and behold there was a flimsy, black and white, folded sheet of paper from Stephen Harper. So I think I'm going to 'speak up' and show what a democracy is really 'built on', Jean and Paul. Oh, and thanks, Mr. Harper, for not asking me to pay another tax to have an "opportunity to participate in my country" like the Liberals did. I'm glad you paid the postage for me.

Do national flags represent something more sinister than national unity?



Pen & Ink Soapbox

Brittany Lavery

It's a pleasant autumn afternoon: the day is mild, the wind caresses your hair softly and scatters brightly coloured leaves across gritty asphalt, the sun shines lazily with a soft, mellow light: the flag ripples gently... the flag ripples... the red and white of the Maple Leaf drifts dreamily through the air. But is this contented little piece of cloth truly care-free?

This question brings me back to a heated debate that took up most of one of my high school politics classes. The point being hotly argued was this: are national flags really so sacred?

"Of course," one side said stoutly. Flags represent, in many cases, freedom. They are symbols of bloody wars fought to ensure the civil rights of national citizens. People died for the Maple Leaf, the Star Spangled Banner, the Union Jack, and many other state representations. Flags, it was argued, sum up in their silken folds bloodshed, strife, pain, the losses of loved ones, hard work, family, unity, and love. This is all very true, on the face of it. I agree that it is not right to make light of people's struggles and sacrifices. But this issue runs a little deeper than it seems.

One of the other things that national flags represent to me is patriotism. Sure, there's nothing wrong with

showing a little light-hearted spirit for the virtues of your place of birth. With patriotism, however, comes a sense of nationalism, and that's when things begin to get a little dangerous, especially during times of war.

I myself am not overly patriotic. Canada is a nice place to live, and I'm grateful I don't live somewhere in Africa or the Middle East where there are horrific happenings all around me. I'm very thankful I don't live in a country where I'd be killed for writing this column. But what bothers me is when people acquire this inexplicable superiority complex simply because of their homeland. You can't help where you're born: therefore I don't think that a birthplace should be a source of pride. A sense of personal satisfaction and self-respect should be based on how you live and how you treat others, not on your country.

You can't help where you're born, and therefore I don't think a birthplace should be a source of pride.

The reason why this frightens me so much is because what follows extreme nationalism is racism. If one begins to believe in his own racial superiority, he naturally also must believe in others' racial inferiority to him. And our

handy Oxford tells us that racism is "the belief that certain races are better than others." As mentioned, this feeling is especially heightened in times of war. Case in point: how many people of Arabic descent are stopped, searched, and generally regarded with suspicion at US borders? And how many Americans, in comparison? Obviously border officials for some reason consider Americans to be safer and more honest; can you really tell me that this isn't an assumption that white Americans are morally superior to other races?

On a different note, this world is becoming rapidly smaller. People are more and more aware of what is going on not only around them but on the other side of the earth. National borders may still be useful for business and government but as far as race goes they are irrelevant. Who cares what country you're from? While it's interesting to learn and be informed about other cultures, people need to realize that we're all human, just in different skins. National pride only asserts that one country is better than another and undermines any sense of global community and racial equality.

Not only is it juvenile to say that one flag is superior, it is even more absurd to delude oneself into thinking that that flag stands for everyone in the country. You can spout national unity rhetoric all you want, but maybe you should go speak to that homeless person downtown because I think she's got bigger issues than patriotism and somehow I can't see her calling God's blessing upon Canada.

Shifty's TOP 10

suggested replacements for faculty of music

Dean Charles Morrison



10. Former Doors frontman Jim Morrison, because he could also teach bogus poetry classes, and coming back from the dead would be pretty bitchin'



9. Van Morrison, since hearing his version of "Brown Eyed Girl" is much better than listening to Blackwater Trio make a musical mockery of it



8. Sting, who has teaching credentials (though he did write a song about balling a student)



7. Dave Matthews. Most students love him already



6. Stevie Wonder, because WLU needs more black faculty



5. Public Enemy's Flava Flav, so students could pay attention while checking the clock



4. MC Hammer, because the campus needs people to laugh at



3. Eminem. At WLU, he can't make love to his ego in the press



2. How about: Dean Sir Paul McCartney. That way he could stop embarrassing his namesake as a former Beatle with shitty solo projects... ditto for Ringo



1. Who wouldn't want decrepit, drug-addled, alcoholic Keith Richards as their dean? He could play "Honky Tonk Women" and tell other deans to "slag off"

Letters to The Cord

letters@wluasp.com

I'm Sorry, Sherry

This letter is in response to Sherry McKeever's letter in last week's issue of *The Cord*.

To Sherry McKeever, I apologize for taking your comments on the ClubLaurier.ca forums out of context. You actually praised this year's Board of Directors, and cautioned me against being too critical of the BOD. I should have respected your right to remain anonymous or at least contacted you in advance to obtain consent or clarification regarding the statement in question. I retract the quote that I credited to you and sincerely urge any interested parties to visit the original thread to see what was really posted at: <http://forums.clublaurier.ca/viewtopic.php?t=1300&start=100>

Brian D'Souza

Accomplishments are better than titles

This letter is in response to a letter from Colin Shonk and Andrew Howell that appeared in last week's issue of *The Cord*.

To these BOD members, I sincerely wish that I knew each and every member of the BOD with the same depth and pleasure that you two do. It was wrong of me to judge the competency of Lindsey Jones or any other BOD member on such trivial criteria as the ability to pay attention during a meeting without picking at one's hair as if it was infested with a colony of lice.

The WLU student body should judge the BOD based on their collective efforts and actions in bettering the university. When you finally deal with the 'Proxy Issue' (this is a way for WLU election candidates to lure votes from uninformed and unsuspecting students), I will be there to praise and thank you like Christians will be upon the Second Coming of Christ. If there is no Second Coming, I will alternatively sing your songs in the same manner that the Communists will if their dreams for revolution are successful.

Brian D'Souza

Don't silence stupidity

The following comment on "The gay escapades" (*The Cord Weekly*, November 12, 2003) is not affiliated with any organization. It is merely a personal statement.

No, I didn't enjoy the "name that gender" game... a game also played by a number of us queers. I didn't like the headline on Currie's article that insinuated although he's in a gay bar he still couldn't pick-up, but then look at guys at clubs in general. As pathetic and judgmental as it is, it's who they are and what they did. Unchangeable. For them to have not written that article would have been much worse, though. There wouldn't be as much controversy or discourse, and they wouldn't have learned how ignorant/idiotic they were for doing such things. They would think that everything they thought and did was alright when it obviously wasn't.

I know both Bryn Boyce and Craig Radcliffe. Awesome people. When I say that they were truthful about themselves, I was commenting on the fact that those writers didn't fluff anything up and try to be the all-

courageous straight-boys braving the homosexual world with completely open minds. However, the writers weren't homophobic in any portrayal. They were six ignorant, uneasy and completely unprepared heterosexual boys entering what they thought would be a different world. And although they did come across some bad examples of stereotypes who only help in pushing misconceptions, they also encountered a world that wasn't all that different from their own, that wasn't a complete meat market, and that could actually be enjoyable for them. For all their initial ignorance they actually learned something in the end, and the best part: they communicated it to others. Here are six straight-boys who learned that gay people and their bars aren't something to be afraid of.

The article brought to light the fact that we still don't live in a wonderfully accepting world full of understanding, and then it made us talk about it. And obviously we need to talk about it. LGBTQ and heterosexual people alike and together.

My comment last week? I tried to be objective, to learn something from the article instead of just attacking it. Others will attack it. Ignorant heterosexuals can then read and learn why it's not okay to play the "name that gender" game. So that's why I am fine with the article.

JD Muir

Proving Muir's point

I'm concerned about the article, "Gay Escapades" (*The Cord Weekly*, November 12, 2003) for a number of reasons.

First, the methods of investigation used. I approached the owners of Renaissance and let them know I was writing a letter to the editor about this. I asked them "did you know Renaissance was going to be in the paper?" and if they were aware that photographs of their patrons would be taken for that article. The owners responded, "no." The staff members were concerned since Renaissance tries to provide a safe environment for queer people. Now that photos were published without the consent of staff members and patrons, they feel that this might not only damage the reputation of Renaissance, but potentially endanger people.

Second, the continual references to gender in the manner: "name that gender game is fun." It's all fun and games to you because you don't have people questioning your gender everyday. For my family this game is much less fun. I have a trans brother who "plays" your so-called "game" every day of his life. Have more sympathy when discussing gender issues; these are actual people, that you are referring to. By creating a "game" out of gender issues you show a lot of intolerance and transphobia. Moreover, if you want to discuss gender, you should educate yourself on transgender issues. Not every "man" dressed in "woman's" clothing is a transvestite. Transpeople are a diverse group. Their identities include drag king/queens, cross dressers, transvestites, two-spirited, transgendered, and/or trans-sexual. And not all transpeople are "homosexual" or even queer. The majority of transpeople live in poverty because they can't

get permanent employment due to discrimination, and many face physical and emotional violence because of the kind of stereotypes and transphobia you display in your article.

Furthermore, it is clear to me that the guys from *The Cord* misrepresented Renaissance by overlooking any biological women at the club. As a patron I am aware that there are a number of women there.

In the future, be more responsible as members of the press, and show more respect and sensitivity for the diversity within both the queer/trans community and within society.

Janelle Simpkins

Editor's Note: The Cord Weekly obtained permission from all of the patrons photographed at Club Renaissance. -W.M.

For further proof, see:

There are many good intentions in having a number of *Cord* staff visit Club Renaissance. Your story ("The gay escapades," *The Cord Weekly*, November 5, 2003) made it less intimidating for those who might wish to visit. It certainly is intimidating, even for a man like myself who first visited the Ren in my 50s. The gay community at Laurier has had far too little attention, but I am going to suggest a solution to that.

The fact is that probably without intention, some of the comments in the original articles were clearly uninformed, nor did they take into account the feelings of people just now coming out of the closet. There were also errors, perpetuated in some of the follow-ups in the November 12 issue. I suspect the people you saw were not transvestites, but rather drag queens (were there any drag kings present?). Clearly Club Ren is a very tame place compared to some of the places in the Village in Toronto.

Rather than dwell on the negatives, let me make some positive suggestions. At one point in *The Cord*, there was a weekly column written by a gay man. Of course, there were regular columns by people from other on-campus communities, too. What I liked about the regular column is that it was written by a gay man coming to grips with himself, and thus able to explore some of the problems faced by youth facing their own sexual identity. I also liked the column because it was by a gay person and there was a realization of the feelings he had about discrimination, jokes, etc. My personal growth was helped by the courage shown in those columns.

I do not expect the heterosexual man/woman to understand what it is like to be gay and to worry about coming out, what one's peers will say or do, and how one's parents, wives, or children will think or react. No one chooses to be gay. Those who face these things daily can capture the experience in a regular column.

The Cord can do its part by having a weekly column written explicitly to make being gay less traumatizing. Students should also be made aware that there are faculty members who are willing to provide safe places to talk and what other resources there are. *The Cord* will be a better paper for it.

Douglas Jackson McCreedy, Ph.D.
Professor of Economics

Violence destroying the community

For four years I have been a loyal reader of *The Cord*, every week looking forward to the often sarcastic yet optimistic pieces churned out by the talented *Cord* student writers. Not until this past issue have I been more compelled to write a response, though. First of all I would like to commend Ruben Gu-Konu and Laura Wagner on their insightful and eye-opening international pieces. Ruben and Laura are two of the most special people I have had the privilege of knowing at Laurier and I'm very proud of their dedication to educating the student body on international affairs.

Second, I would like to comment on an issue that I have taken very personally. Caitlin Howlett's article about violence at Laurier "Don't mess around with a guy in shades," *The Cord Weekly*, November 12, 2003) involved a friend of mine. He is one of the nicest, most stand-up guys I have ever had the distinction of calling a friend. The night of the attack I met up with him and his roommates, who I had met for the first time, and was immediately struck by how friendly and outgoing they were. Nobody deserves what happened to these young men, but these guys truly were the last people to deserve a beating as severe and damaging as what happened to them. It breaks my heart every time I think about what happened.

For the better part of my adult life Wilfrid Laurier University has been my home; a place where I felt safe, and a place where it was OK to walk someone home from the bar and not worry about being accosted on the way. The events of last week and the previous attacks on women in the area have made me feel like a stranger in my own home. This is no way to live.

To the jerks responsible for what happened to the innocent guys just coming home from a fun night at the bar: I hope your actions have

made you feel like big men, and that they have sufficiently compensated for the phallic inadequacies you were no doubt seeking to amend. I hope you lose sleep over the fact that what you have done has affected the student body in ways you never thought possible. It's sad that it takes violence like this to open up people's eyes to what's going on around us... or in this case, swollen them shut.

Brandie Ferrell

Sorry about the school-girl

The students of ACE Laurier would like to apologize to anyone we may have offended with the choice of our theme for last week's bar night. We never intended for the event or the content of the posters to offend or upset anyone and we apologize if the theme was seen as offensive to women. We would never intentionally offend any member of the Laurier community. ACE Laurier has decided to donate all of the profits from the event to Anselma House, which provides a safe and supportive environment for physically, sexually and emotionally abused women and their children.

As a campus-based organization, ACE Laurier is committed to inspiring students to seek out opportunities where they can make a positive impact on their communities. By encouraging students to execute creative, innovative and effective initiatives, ACE Laurier develops young leaders and fosters an entrepreneurial spirit. ACE Laurier strives to promote women in business through initiatives like the Makeover for Success program that helps teach unemployed women resume writing and interview skills.

ACE Laurier

Continued on following page

WOW!

Over 200 students applied to be note-takers!



THANK YOU

to EVERYONE who helped to make the note-taking program a success!



Thanks from:
Everyone in the
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www.wlu.ca/~wwwsneed

Letters to The Cord

Continued from previous page

Poetic Justice

The poetry reading on Tuesday November 4th was intended as a forum for people to read their poems and stories. More importantly, the reading was meant to be an opportunity for people with similar interests (poetry, fiction, literature) to come together, meet, get to know each other, exchange ideas, celebrate creativity, and have a good time.

To those who did not attend, please do not be turned off by Nick Czekurlon's negative review of this event ("WLU poets, mixed reactions," The Cord Weekly, November 12, 2003). Mr. Czekurlon unfairly characterized the poetry reading and its attendees. He claims that "words were empty and depressing, with the night playing out as a reflection of our current monoculture." Most of the people I spoke with were excited and hopeful. But, according to Mr. Czekurlon's (unfounded) interpretation of their intentions, readers were there to "feel important and appreciated," (the author implies that this is negative), "because they [were] surrounded mostly by those who also reek of desperation." As an attendee of this event I am personally offended by this remark! As a friend of many in attendance, I can attest that most did not reek of desperation, although I cannot speak for myself, since a person is unable to discern his or her own scent.

The author of the review seems convinced that the single purpose of poetry is to "express the writer's true emotions." While this may be true of Hallmark greeting cards, poetry has been an art form where fictional situations are just as likely to be presented as true or emotional elements. While Mr. Czekurlon's interpretation of poetry is legitimate, poetry is a subjective experience. There are as many ways to write and read poetry as there are people. I disagree with Mr. Czekurlon's restrictive definition of poetry. But my biggest problem with the author's criticism of this event is that it was not constructive, rather it was condescending, and in some areas insulting.

We held a poetry reading so that people could share their modest talents in an atmosphere of acceptance. I doubt that those who presented their art in this forum expected criticism and name-calling.

David Alexander
3rd Year English and Psychology

What Did Jesus Do?

Christmas is upon us yet again. And I'm sure that I'm not the only one thinking of finals and feeling like Christmas trees and sugarpum dreams are still a long way off.

With this in mind, I realize that it's also a time where we try to make our language more open. You know, holi-

letters@wluasp.com

day trees instead of Christmas trees, Season's Greetings instead of Merry Christmas. It kind of makes the Holidays more acceptable I guess.

Although, at least where we live, the idea of Christmas is pretty much a part of our experience. It just doesn't feel right until we've sung 'Silent Night'. Although the capitalists would tell you otherwise, it's kind of hard to take the 'Christian part' out of Christmas.

But here's a stunning thought. A baby in a manger, by himself, just doesn't make a difference. Really, when we think about it, lots of babies are born everyday. Sure Jesus in a manger is cute but if that's all he does, Christmas is irrelevant.

Here's the spiritual take: unless Jesus goes on, lives as a human, and then makes the Easter story happen, Christmas doesn't mean a whole bunch.

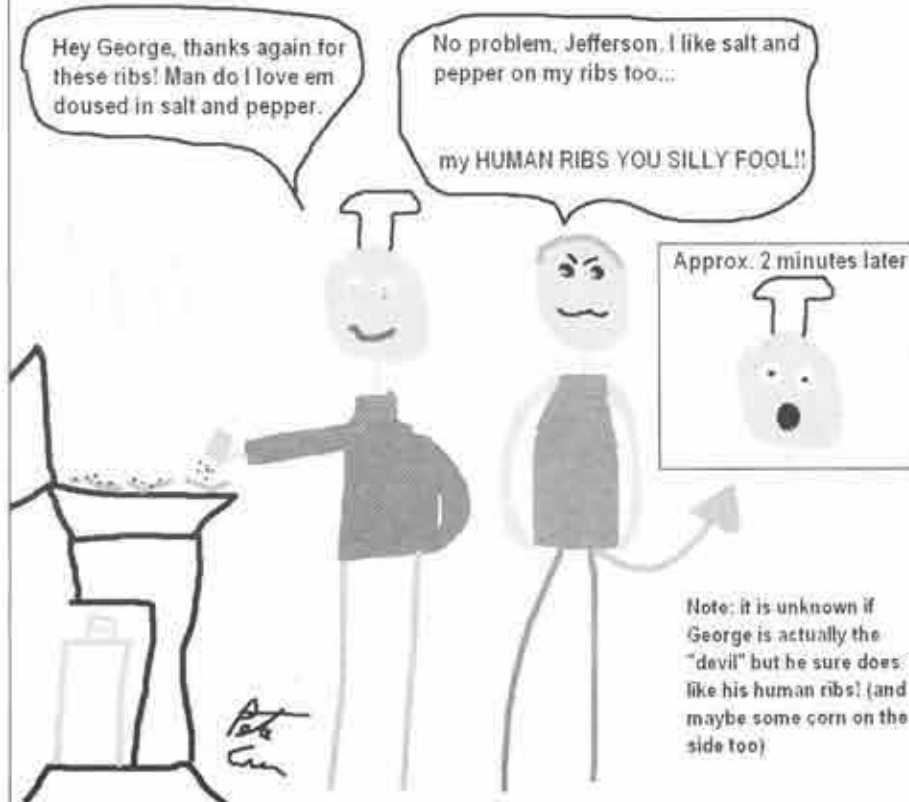
These are some of the things we're going to be addressing this Sunday, November 23rd at this little thing called Church in the Concourse. The event itself is 7pm, but we'll be in the Concourse a bit earlier than that. Sorry if we disturb you, but thanks if you come out, sing some carols, have some hot chocolate and interact with these thoughts and with us.

We're definitely not trying to dis Christmas, just reconcile it with a higher power who really does care...

Graham Gladstone

WEEKLY BAD DRAWING

By Pete Cram



Note: it is unknown if George is actually the "devil" but he sure does like his human ribs! (and maybe some corn on the side too)



Stefan Sereda

If you look closely, you'll notice that capitalist business has once again gone festive and hung Christmas decorations in mid-November. Thanks for displacing my holiday, it seems creepy now.

Do you think Meg White is Ganfunkel to Jack White's Simon?

Don't stew in the juices of your holiday ham: send a letter before the break:

letters@wluasp.com... Maximum 350 words

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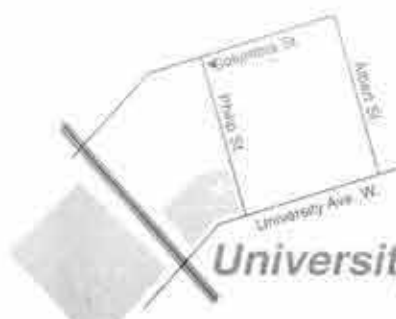
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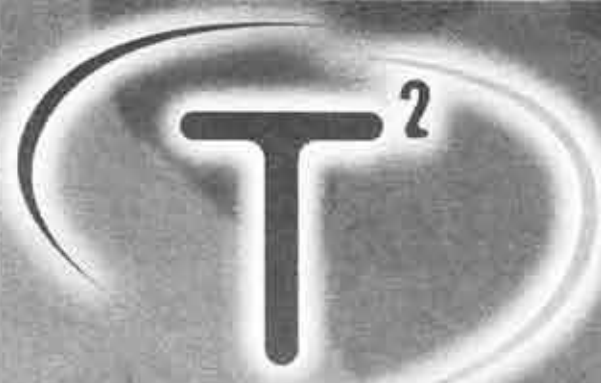


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Queen Mary 2 claims 15 lives

MARY ERSKINE
Staff Writer

Even before its maiden voyage, the Queen Mary 2 is off to a titanic start. The world's largest ocean liner already has fifteen casualties to its name as of Saturday. In addition to the deaths, thirty-two were injured when a gangway leading to the Queen Mary 2 collapsed. The small ship-building town of St. Nazaire, France has had its share of tragedies, but this unnecessary and seemingly unexplained tragedy has put the entire community into mourning.

Rio Sanch, an employee at the docks for over 25 years stated, "there just aren't the right words... the sea is dangerous, Nazaireans know that. Shipyards can be dangerous, we've lost colleagues to accidents before. But 15 people dead? It's more than a black day for this town, it's a stab in its heart."

Many victims were family or friends of the ship workers out for a weekend excursion to see the future world's largest ocean liner, which is still scheduled to embark on its maiden voyage as planned.

The collapsed gangway was one of several which were built to connect the dry-docked ship to the shore and hovered fifty feet above some rocky terrain. Investigations regarding the reason behind the collapse are still in progress, but suspicions surround the hasty construction of the gangway which only ever had around six people cross at a time. At the time of the incident, there were about fifty people on the gangway.

The newest venture of the Cunard Corporation was to be the pride of the small French ship building town but as one man who lost three family members noted, "pride is second now." And while the schedule is still in place for the vessel's departure, celebration plans in the shipwright community have been scrapped.

The Queen Mary 2 measures over 1,100 ft and weighs over twice that of its predecessor, the Queen Elizabeth 2. Upon completion, the QM 2's construction costs will top US\$800 million.

What was to be the greatest and most luxurious ship in the world has now been dubbed "Bloody Mary" by many people living in the area surrounding the docks.



Contributed Photo

Despite the recent pervasive military and militant led war tactics and cultural segregation, hope still exists in the ravaged Middle East

Hope is in our midst

'Israel for Heart' students brought optimistic message to Laurier presentation

DAN SENNET
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, at 5:30 in the DAWB, three average looking, run-of-the-mill students addressed Laurier Students on the realities of life for a student living in Israel. Instead of hearing messages of despair, they brought messages of hope. And their message was well received.

Israel for Heart is a non-profit, non-political affiliated organization out of New York City founded 16 months ago by a Jewish Philanthropist who was worried that students and the rest of the population were receiving a narrow, one-sided view of the Middle-East crisis. His answer was to bring Israeli students to America to share their experiences and shed some light on the Israeli side of the equation.

Chanan is a 25-year-old student. Like every other citizen of Israel, he joined the army at age 18 and was released three years later. In the Israeli Defense Forces

(IDF), he worked as a coordinator between the Israeli government and the Political Authority in the Gaza Strip. In those days, there was a relative peace that permeated society.

In his last three weeks with the IDF, he was in the Erez Crossing (the main crossing point into Gaza) where he noticed an old friend but not just any old friend, a high-ranking Palestinian Official he knew from his active duty years ago. They shared a cigarette, some jokes and some reminiscing.

At the time, there was an Italian news agency that filmed the interaction, bewildered by the fact that an Israeli soldier would share a smoke as comrades with a Palestinian agent. Chanan ended his story by saying that if old soldiers can smile together, the two countries can as well. Chanan offered a message of hope.

Meir is a little older than Chanan. He is an Ethiopian Jewish immigrant to Israel.

In Ethiopia, he lived the life of a typical villager. He told the story of his adventurous journey to Israel, which led him and his family through Sudan for three months where they were subjected to extreme anti-semitism.

Coming off the plane into Israel, Meir's family joked that he wondered if they were in the wrong country, if a big hoax had been played on him: there were only white Jews around, whereas Meir's family had never known a Jew who was not black. Meir and his family are tired of war and have had enough terror, all they want is peace. He believes that both sides are going about it the wrong way.

Karen is in a similar position to Chanan and Meir, she is a student; she has put her three years in with the IDF and she's tired of the misinformation and misconceptions most Westerners have. She wants to expose the faces and lives of people you see behind the newspaper articles.

She spoke of a typical day for her: riding the bus to university, wondering if the person next to her is strapped with enough C4 and shrapnel to kill everyone on the bus. She then waits forty minutes in line to get into the university because every student's bag must be checked and then she walks through the fence lined with armed guards on her way to class.

When she finds her class, she wonders if it would be safer to sit near the middle, or towards the back or front of the class, as you never know if someone was smart enough to smuggle in explosives (as has been the case before). Imagine wondering in your psych or business class if a bomber was going to blow up your room.

These three students, for the amount of grief and pain they have been forced to live through, are amazingly optimistic. They fully believe that peace is possible and given the right circumstances, even probable. Their outlook on life is inspiring. The organization they represent is successful in its intent: expose Israeli life for what is: tough, worrisome but optimistic.

-IT TAKES ALL TYPES TO MAKE A WORLD-

Guided coke mules a hit

KRIS COTE
Staff Writer

Ten years ago a bombing in Morocco with links to an extremist movement closed the border between neighbouring Algeria. In the following years a substantial smuggling operation developed which utilized 'remote-controlled donkeys.'

The rocky, barren frontier between the two countries received little attention from border patrols, yet smugglers were not willing to risk their freedom. The smugglers transformed an established smuggling mode from

Libyan's, who are known to lock the steering wheels on their trucks, point them in the right direction, and put a rock on the accelerator.

Smugglers in Algeria instead took donkeys, loaded them with valuable goods, pointed them towards Morocco, and attached tape recorders to them. The tape recorders repeated the message 'Err', Arabic for walk. The donkeys walked towards Morocco until they were intercepted by smugglers on the other side of the border. They were then stripped of their goods, loaded with new

goods valuable in Algeria, and pointed in the other direction.

The size of the operation or the value of the goods smuggled is not known but last week when border police were informed of the operation, they responded by killing two hundred of the donkeys. It is not known if any smart-ass remarks prompted the mass slaughter.

Villagers in Algeria are protesting the actions of the border police, according to a BBC correspondent in Bab el-Assa. They view the killings as illegal, questioning whether or not the slaughter will prevent future smuggling.



Contributed Photo

This donkey was shot for not carrying it's load of coke effectively

It's time to drop the rhetoric too

Despite Bono's catchy 'Drop The Debt' slogans, few take the issue of debt-burden seriously



Drop The IMF

Kris Cote

When Bono spoke at the Liberal Convention this past weekend, it appeared that his message of 'drop the debt' was a popular one. People were banging their inflatable tubes together so much he could hardly get a sentence out.

While he was on stage speaking, Dominicans were being beaten and killed in their very own streets by a government forced to uphold the punishing effects of structural adjustment programs on the people. The Dominican Republic began adopting International Monetary Fund (IMF) Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) in 1982; the country has since seen its economy stagnate at best, prices for foodstuffs skyrocket, and mass strikes and riots occur.

One aspect of the SAPs forces countries to devalue their money, in a supposed attempt to increase exports. The side effect is that imports, drastically increased in an adjustment program, are worth more



Contributed Photo

These South African demonstrators are rallying for debt amnesty and AIDS drug support

than people can afford. One of the reasons Dominicans rioted in the streets last week was because their inflation currently sits around 40%. Couple that with fluctuating sugar prices (the cash crop they are forced to grow under their adjustment program) and it is little wonder why the people would be so angry.

Yet as Bono stood on stage and asked Canadians to 'drop the debt,' few Canadians understand what he is truly saying. 'Fiscal Conservatives' like Paul Martin might drop token amounts but just enough to get the press that

comes with it. For Canadians could drop every debt owed to us and countries like the Dominican would still be fucked.

Development costs money, and to gain money a government must have a strong source of securing taxes. Yet due to structural adjustment, sugar plantations, the cash crop of the Dominican are mostly owned by outside investors (for the government to own the plantations and take advantage of its profits seems absurd to capitalists). Tariffs used to protect Canadian industries and gather tax revenues are not allowed in an adjustment program. Wages, kept low by

the flood of cash crops on the global market, don't appear to offer much of a tax base either.

What will happen when a country like the Dominican tries to expropriate land from the Multi-National Corporations or impose tariffs on Canadian imports? Well Cuba has been under a US embargo for more than 40 years for taking similar actions and Chile had their democratically elected President assassinated by

US-backed forces (who would comply with US interests). As another example, Zimbabwe has been cast out of the international community's good graces for trying to take back the land that was stolen from them by the colonial powers.

To avoid this situation, developing countries will be forced to once again borrow money from the World Bank, which means that it will have to meet the criteria of the IMF, once again adopting structural adjustment programs.

So when Bono asks Canadians to 'drop the debt,' we should not merely do so, we should fight to change the lending policies of the IMF. Current IMF policies not only hinder long term stability through reliance on a cash crop industry, they seek to keep 'less' developed countries in a subordinate position to 'developed' ones.

Some would argue that giving the needy money will not teach them sustainability either, which is why loans need to be reformed to allow alternative modes of development to occur because obviously the pseudo-Western model is not performing. Until then, Canadians can feel great about themselves for dropping some debts while we continue to ensure the less developed stay that way.

Africa on its own

America's myopic policies keep the turmoil in Africa alive



Safety and Stability

Ruben Gu-Konu

Is there a possibility that the United States intervention in Liberia was just a quick way to ease the pressure from the international community while American soldiers are returning every day in body bags? Has the Bush administration made things worse for Liberia, already torn by over 10 years of war? If \$25 million was offered for the capture of Saddam Hussein, why was Charles Taylor allowed to walk away free? These are questions that experts around the world and especially the Liberians themselves are asking today.

Over 200,000 British and American troops are fighting and trying to find Saddam Hussein, who represents "a threat to civilization as a whole" and a definite danger to stability and peace in Iraq.

Yet Charles Taylor, who is before the International Court of Justice for numerous crimes against humanity, just got a polite "Please Leave," without any questions or any charges.

Once again, this illustrates how the United States' involvement in Africa's domestic conflicts is made with neither commitment nor respect for the people of the involved countries. By asking Charles Taylor to leave, the Bush administration failed to give the Liberian people a chance to judge him

for his crimes or secure their future.

Installing Moses Blah, Taylor's second in command, makes Liberia an even more dangerous place as Taylor will still have the capacity to not only mobilize troops from exile but also secure his position of power after Liberia becomes forgotten in American eyes.

The United States' involvement in Africa has neither commitment nor respect for the people of the involved countries

The main issue here is that no real assessment was made by the Bush Administration on the depth and gravity of the Liberian situation. No commitment was made to find a plausible and responsible leader after Taylor was forced into exile in August 2003. No close look was given to the alarming number of refugees (1,500,000) who sought respite in Guinea, the Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone—all countries involved in severe armed conflicts of their own.

The physical and psychological rehabilitation of thousands of child soldiers, most of whom were drugged during the conflict, has fallen off the list of priorities. So too have the mental and emotional conditions of the thousands of rape victims, predominantly small children and girls under the age of 16. The reconstruction plans and

development schemes have turned a blind eye to the future generation of African youth.

Under heavy international pressure and a very hostile situation in Iraq, the Bush Administration treated the Liberian crisis as a second degree situation, seriously putting the Liberian people at risk and allowing a bloody criminal to enjoy life while his people are suffering to secure a fragile peace and rebuild their economy.

The involvement of worldwide powers in conflicts around the globe needs to be thoroughly assessed, especially in Africa where ethnic, cultural and religious factors cannot, under any circumstances, be minimized. The vast majority of these countries have extensive background issues that need to be addressed first before the vicious cycle of power vacuums and despotic coups can be broken. These problems of stability, ethnic conflict and poverty are not only dividing the people but also have the capacity to ignite a conflict at any time.

With such ambiguities surrounding these conflicts, particularly in Africa, the involvement of humanitarian workers is an important start. International pressure and direct military action should only follow after a thorough assessment of the situation and as a last resort.

Today Liberians are trying to solidify a newly recovered peace and are rebuilding what's left of one of Africa's diamond mines. The question is, how long will the peace stand?

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Around The World

A snapshot of world events and some gratuitous anti-Americanism...everybody's doing it, I even saw it in Adbusters



ITALY - The bodies of the first Italian soldiers killed in Iraq arrived in Talili, Iraq for a ceremony on Saturday. On Wednesday a blast rocked through an Italian military outpost in Nasiriyah claiming the lives of 18 Italian troops.

HAITI - Violence between demonstrators raged in the streets of Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. Supporters of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide overran a smaller demonstration of anti-Aristide citizens on Friday.

CHINA - Fear of a SARS resurgence has many in China feeling uneasy about the winter months. The medical community has noted that repeat outbreaks could occur in conjunction with flu season.

SRI LANKA - Sri Lankan Buddhists burn a Norway flag in the streets of Colombo. Norway has backed out of mediating peace talks until the political strife between President Chandrika Kumaratunga and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe settles.



Compiled by Bryn Boyce and Nicole Wilker

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"Is *altruism* service of one's fellows desirable? Then must life experience provide for encountering situations of social inequality." (The Urantia Book 51:06)

"...the outstanding characteristics of all religions are: unquestioning loyalty and wholehearted devotion to supreme values." (The Urantia Book 100:03)

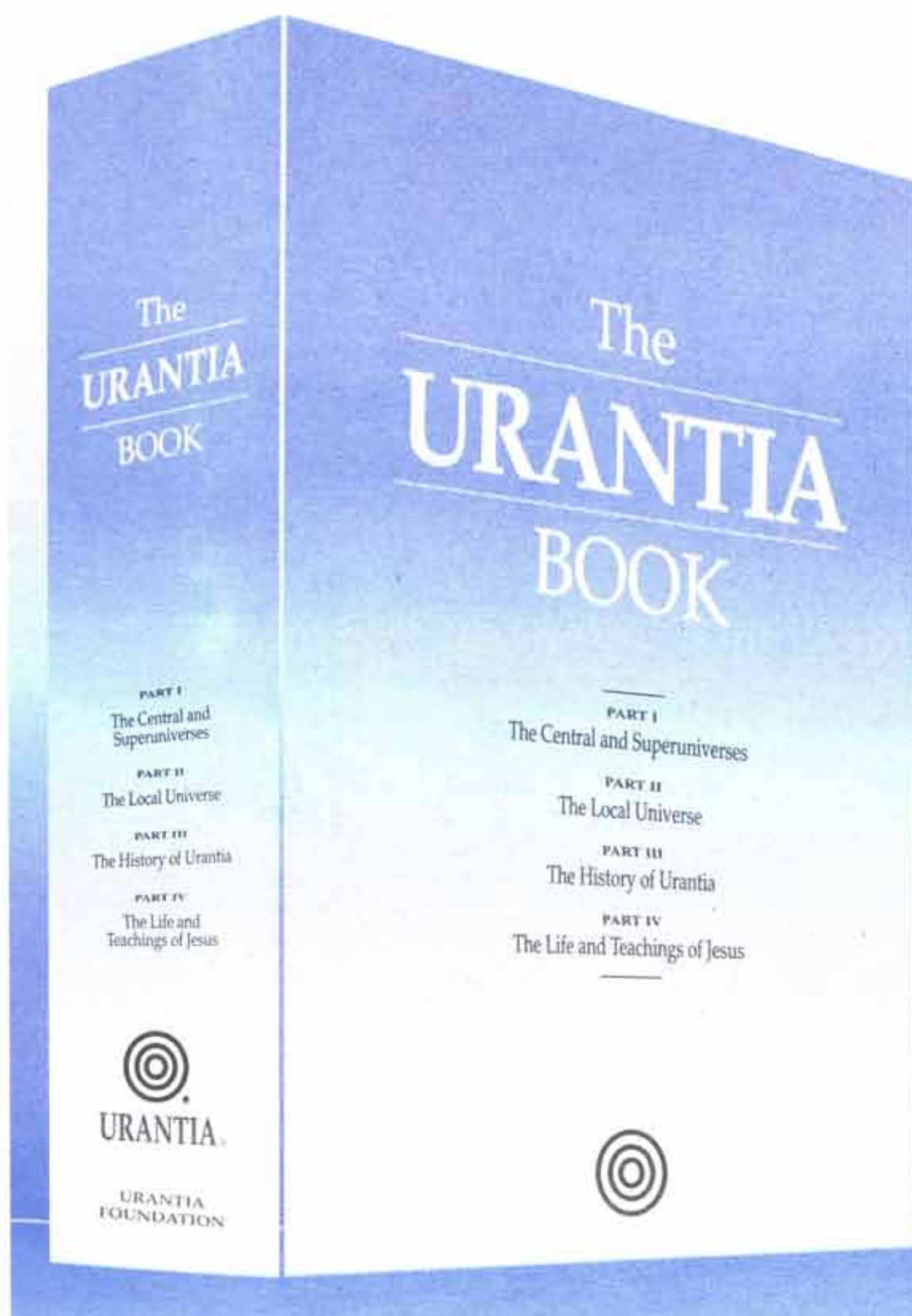
"Civilization, science, and advanced religions must deliver mankind from those fears born of the dread of natural phenomena." (The Urantia Book 1013:06)

"Do not be so slothful as to ask God to solve your difficulties, but never hesitate to ask him for the wisdom and spiritual strength to guide and sustain you while you yourself resolutely and courageously attack the problems at hand." (The Urantia Book 999:08)

"The doing of the will of God is nothing more or less than an exhibition of creature willingness to share the inner life with God..." (The Urantia Book 422:02)

"The Father in heaven never fails to accept the sincere worship of his children on earth, no matter how crude their concept of Deity or by what name they symbolize his divine nature." (The Urantia Book 1500:04)

"Success may generate courage and promote confidence, but wisdom comes only from the experiences of adjustment to the results of one's failures." (The Urantia Book 1179:06)



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Holidays of the world

Diwali

KEVIN FIELD
Copy Editor

Some may think of it as the Hindu Christmas or the Hindu New Year, but Diwali holds little in common with such Western holidays besides the season and spirit in which they're held and the fact that gifts are exchanged.

The Diwali festival, which was held from October 25th-29th this year, is a time to celebrate, reconnect and prepare for another year of productivity. The festival's name means "rows of lighted lamps", so it's no surprise that one tradition is to light lamps and candles to greet Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth.

In fact, many of the traditions of the seasons are centred around Lakshmi, such as renovating dwellings, engaging in gambling and paying off debts, all for the purpose of encouraging the goddess to bless people in

the new year, whether they lose at poker that night or not.

Many other traditions focus on other gods and goddesses, such as Laxmi, Lord Ganesha and Prince Rama. Most involve some form of sacrifice, story-telling, ritual or worship, but whatever the activity, it is to be done in a spirit of happiness.

The hope for a better and more peaceful country seems to underlie most of the stories retold during Diwali. Not all myths are retold consistently, though. Even the common tale of Prince Rama's return has one of several different endings and emphasizes themes depending on which region the storyteller is from.

If you're interested in finding out more at an actual Diwali celebration, you're too late for this year's—it was already held on the 25th of last month—but feel free to check it out next year around the same time.



Kwanzaa

FRASER KING
Staff Writer

Kwanzaa, which is not a typo of the popular filesharing program Kazaa, is a period of seven days from December 26th to January 1st. Kwanzaa is considered to be the traditional celebration period for African and African-American culture.

Kwanzaa, as melanet.com explains, was devised in the 60s by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga, a professor and the chair of the Department of Black Studies at California State University, and was first celebrated in 1966.

The actual term 'Kwanzaa' was modified from a Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which translates to "first fruits," and is drawn largely from the harvest traditions of many African cultures. Each

of the seven days of the celebration is focused on one of the "Nguzo Saba", which translates to "the seven principles."

The Nguzo Saba are meant to be principles for Africans and African-Americans to live their lives by and are very positive in nature. The principles are Umoja/Unity, Kujichagulia/Self-Determination, Ujima/Collective Work and Responsibility, Ujamaa/Cooperative Economics, Nia/Purpose, Kuumba/Creativity and Imani/Faith.

Melanet.com further explains Kwanzaa is open to be celebrated by Africans and African-Americans of all religious faiths and backgrounds, apparently aspiring WASP children will be excluded.

Ramadan

CRAIG RADCLIFFE
Features Editor

Ramadan is the Muslim celebration that commemorates the month in which Allah revealed the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammed. Ramadan occurs in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, marked by the sighting of the first crescent moon. Muslims observing Ramadan generally abstain from eating, drinking and sexual intercourse for the duration of the month.

Fasting in Islam is undertaken for many reasons. It is said to aid resistance to the 'lower instincts' that cause people to commit sin, it is meant to encourage commu-

nity togetherness and it allows the participant to empathize with those who may not be able to afford food. The fasting is also intended to make participants think about how much they consume and try to curb their urges.

On the evening of the one of the last ten days of the fast (it varies between sects), Laylatul-Qadr (the Night of Decree) is celebrated. This day is commemorated as the day that Muhammed received a part of the Qur'an (the part in question varies between sects). Prayer on this night is said to be equivalent to 1,000 days of prayer on any other day.

Chanukah

THOMAS THOMPSON
Special Projects Editor

Chanukah, the festival lights commemorates the rededication of the temple of Jerusalem over 2300 years ago. Chanukah takes place towards the end of November or in December on the western calendar but it shifts every year because it is celebrated on the 25th day of the Kislev in the Hebrew calendar.

Judea the present day Israel was ruled by the Syrian King Antiochus. The king decreed that the Jewish people should abandon their god and start worshipping the pantheon of Greek gods. Some of the people revolted. Judah Maccabee and his four brothers created an army and led the revolt. In three years the Syrians were driv-

en out of Judea. It was decided that the temple of Jerusalem was to have the Greek relics removed and it was to be rededicated as a Jewish temple.

The work was completed on the 25th day of Kislev and a flame was lit in the temple in accordance to religious custom. By tradition, the flame was supposed to burn eternally but there was a problem. There was only enough oil for one day. The flame was lit but by what was attributed as a miracle the flame burned for eight days. Hence it became customary to celebrate the festival of lights.

Chanukah is time when the Jewish people exchange gifts, entertain at home with friends and family and light the menorah in honour of the season.



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Christmas

FRASER KING
Staff Writer

While Christmas is today largely a gift-giving celebration that has become highly commercialized, the roots of the Christmas celebration are spiritual and not even Christian.

Historychannel.com explains that the Christmas that is celebrated today has a variety of roots and influences, one of the largest of which is the Winter Solstice of December 21st.

Ancient Northern European winter celebrations are also drawn into the current Christmas celebration, notably the slaughtering of livestock and the fresh meat they provided and wine and beer made during the year were finished the fermentation process at this time.

While the primary celebration of Christianity was Easter, the early Christian emperors of Rome decided to

implement the birth of Jesus as a holiday and celebration. While the Bible does not mention the date of the birth of Christ, earlier Roman celebrations took place near the solstice were replaced with the celebration of the birth of Christ.

While the ancient celebrations were more carnival and feast oriented, the current conception of Christmas was brought on by the elite of New York society who began presenting an ideal image of Christmas as a sedate and family oriented holiday after many "Christmas riots" became problematic in 1800s New York.

Nowadays, Christmas has become a fanatical orgy of consumerism that serves to fatten the wallets of the corporate world while driving many people deep into debt. Whatever scrap is left of the true meaning of Christmas unfortunately seems to lie in a big jolly fat man and his twelve reindeer.



Top: A Muslim man enjoys a hefty puff on his hookah after breaking his fast during Ramadan. Bottom: Hundreds of devout Muslims pray during the Ramadan fast.



Young man shows his Jewish pride with two Israeli flags and an NFL visor.

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How incredibly lucky we are

With all our complaining about papers and exams we sometimes forget that getting an education is a gift. In some countries kids get conscripted into the military.

MICHELLE PINCHEV
Staff Writer

The life of a Laurier student is one of turbulence: the parties, the meetings, the obligations, the bills, the cleaning and cooking... and, oh yeah, the studying. It is an emotional rollercoaster and often we are too busy worrying about our own petty concerns to take a moment and consider those less fortunate. Only then do we realize how much we take for granted.

While we bitch and moan about the endless reading we have to do, many students in impoverished or war-torn countries do not even have books, let alone a pencil to write with. In extreme cases, classes are mobile and held in the open air. In such cases, their only textbooks are the knowledge of their teacher, and their own notes if they

are fortunate enough to have any.

Poverty, not only in developing countries but even within our own, prevents children from exercising their human right to education.

Poverty, not only in developing countries but even within our own communities, prevents children from exercising their human right to education. And sadly, it is education that would break the vicious cycle.

In Nicaragua the quality and relevance of education

are severely in question. It takes reportedly 10.3 years for children to complete the six mandatory years, with only a sobering 29 % of children actually able to complete primary school. The crippling poverty in this country greatly affects school participation since many families can't afford the direct or hidden costs. Poverty also gives rise to child labour which affects over 167,000 children and adolescents; families depend greatly on their young children to work and they are unable to consistently attend school. This is only one example of the injustices that occur all around the globe.

As HIV and AIDS sweep across these nations, taking the lives of the poor and the uninformed, it is clear that the strongest defense is education. We seldom realize how much we take for granted and perhaps some even look down on those around us who are so completely unable to help themselves. But we carry on, so dedicated to our desperate quest for laundry change that we forget how lucky we are.

The first year students at University View are appealing to all Laurier students to contribute to a great cause: school kits. UV is hoping to send hundreds of school kits to refugee and displaced children, trying to help students and teachers add some normalcy to disrupted lives. Also, impoverished areas in our own communities or areas that experienced natural disasters receive these kits with joy. This Friday



(November 21st), there will be an information booth set up in the concourse where any caring individuals can drop off donations. A school kit contains: four spiral notebooks, four unsharpened pencils, one ruler, a box of coloured pencils and a large

eraser. Any contributions will make you eligible for a raffle prize donated by Second Cup, the C-Spot and the Terrace Food Court. For more information, write to school_kits@hotmail.com.

You're not just overreacting

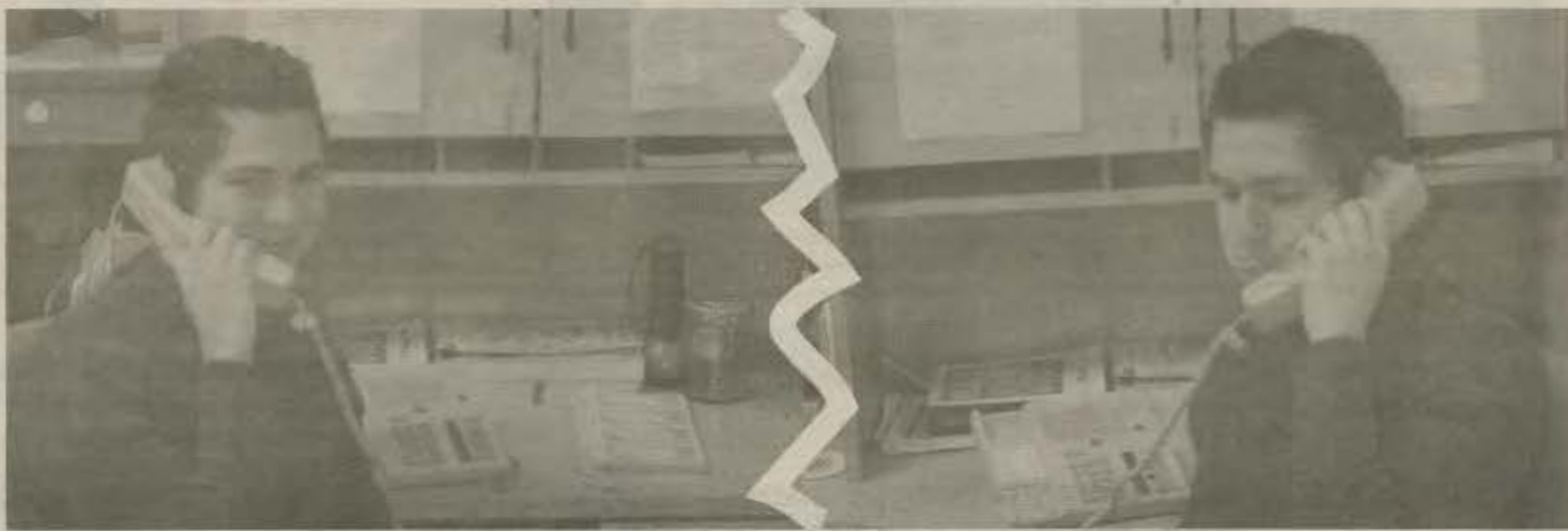
Depression is more than just a bad day, it's that sad feeling that just won't pass

LINDSAY BLEWETT
Staff Writer

Have you ever had trouble getting out of bed, not because you don't want to go to class but because you feel so sad that you just don't want to have to see or talk to anyone? Do you have trouble sleeping at night because you just can't stop thinking? Have your eating habits changed to the point that you don't eat that much anymore, if at all?

Well don't tell yourself that you're just being dramatic, because it's more likely that you're suffering from depression - and you're not alone. It's a common problem among university students. Approximately 10% of university students suffer from depression, and that percentage translates into about 1000 students at WLU alone.

While most students are likely to experience occasional periods of depression, the term clinical depression refers to a whole body illness in which an individual's mind, body and emotions are affected. Specifically, symptoms of clinical depression



Caitlin Howlett

This Peer Help Line volunteer jovially assists a student who may be suffering from depression on the other line (left), while minutes later the volunteer appears sad, indicating he too may be depressed...not much help now is he?

last longer than two weeks and include feelings of sadness, irritability, difficulty concentrating, decreased energy, feelings of guilt or worthlessness, changes in appetite, feelings of hopelessness, thoughts of death or suicide, loss of pleasure or interest in activities and changes in sleep habits.

Because a stigma is often associated with mental health problems, students who are feeling depressed may be reluctant to seek help. Moreover, without knowledge of symptoms associated with depression, students may feel down and sad yet unaware of what they are experiencing, let alone know that help is available.

The good news is that approximately 85% of those who receive counseling are effectively treated. Some peo-

Symptoms include sadness, irritability, feelings of guilt, loss of pleasure in activities, and changes in sleep-abits.

ple may deny that they could be affected by a mental illness and may want to believe that they can will their feelings away.

Some people want to think that they're just being dramatic or that this is the worst case of PMS ever but, unfortunately, without appropriate interventions, clinical depression will not just go away and can lead to more serious problems. These include self-mutilation (cutting, burning or wound interference) and suicide. More women acknowledge depression and attempt suicide than men but four times more men commit suicide than women.

If you think that you are depressed and you don't want to talk to a counselor in person, there are other outlets. The Peer Help Line is a free service run by student volun-

teers. They are available to take calls Monday - Sunday 7pm - 1am. It is completely anonymous, so if you aren't ready to seek counseling you can talk to them. However, counseling is important for you to start feeling better.

Laurier's Counseling Services offers up to eight free counseling sessions per semester and the counselors are friendly and knowledgeable and everything you say to them (short of saying you want to kill someone) is completely confidential. They will not judge you. Before you decide that it's not worth it anymore, talk to someone.

Horoscope

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12-19

Happy Birthday Sagittarius!



All sorts of interesting things are going to be happening to you. People around you may not be all they seem to be. So make sure the people you are dealing with are sincere. You are going to receive quite the surprise for your birthday.

Gemini

May 21 - June 21



You will be starting something new. This new challenge is going to require you to be more creative than you have been recently, and this is for the best. Things are just going to work themselves out, but, expect the unexpected.

Luckiest day: November 25.

Virgo

August 23 - September 23



You are going to have to make lots of decisions over the next while. Make sure you think about everything carefully, especially in regards to finances. Don't hesitate to consult someone for advice, they may think of something you won't.

Luckiest day: November 21.

Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21



If you are looking for a new job, or looking for a change, the opportunity exists for you to start something new. Don't expect any drastic change in every day life though, things are going to be tame for the next while.

Luckiest day: November 24.

Pisces

February 20 - March 20



A recent situation is going to make you feel trapped. You will have to deal with one issue at a time to have things go back to normal. Friends are always around if you need help with something, don't hesitate to ask.

Luckiest day: November 25.

Aries

March 21 - April 19



Lots of good things are going to be happening to you. If you stay on top of all of your work you will truly be able to enjoy all of the refreshing change coming. A new friendship could turn out to be something more than you expected.

Luckiest day: November 22.

Cancer

June 22 - July 22



You are going to continue to impress people for the next little bit. Don't be afraid to make suggestions or give your opinion in a situation where you normally wouldn't. You are in control of everything right now, so make the best of it.

Luckiest day: November 23.

Libra

September 24 - October 22



There are some new issues about to crop up. Expect things to happen in threes for the next while. Keep in mind that there is a lot of success ahead of you. But, as a learning process, you have to go through a bit of a stress to reach your goals.

Luckiest day: November 12.

Capricorn

December 22 - January 19



All kinds of good things are going to be happening to you. They will last for awhile if you maintain a positive outlook on life. Something will happen that is going to make you feel quite proud. Enjoy it while it lasts.

Luckiest day: November 22.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20



You are going to have to put more of an effort into making things balance or work out over the next while. Seek assistance, whenever you can, especially in regards to finances. Just keep in mind that better days are ahead.

Luckiest day: November 20.

Leo

July 23 - August 22



You will be starting to receive the rewards you expect. All the effort you have put out into projects and work is going to start coming back to you. An unexpected gift will take you by surprise as there is no reason for it to be given.

Luckiest day: November 22.

Scorpio

October 23 - November 21



An unexpected event will add stress to your already busy schedule. Don't take out your frustrations on others; you'll need their help later. Pay attention to your dreams, your subconscious is working things out for you.

Luckiest day: November 21.

Aquarius

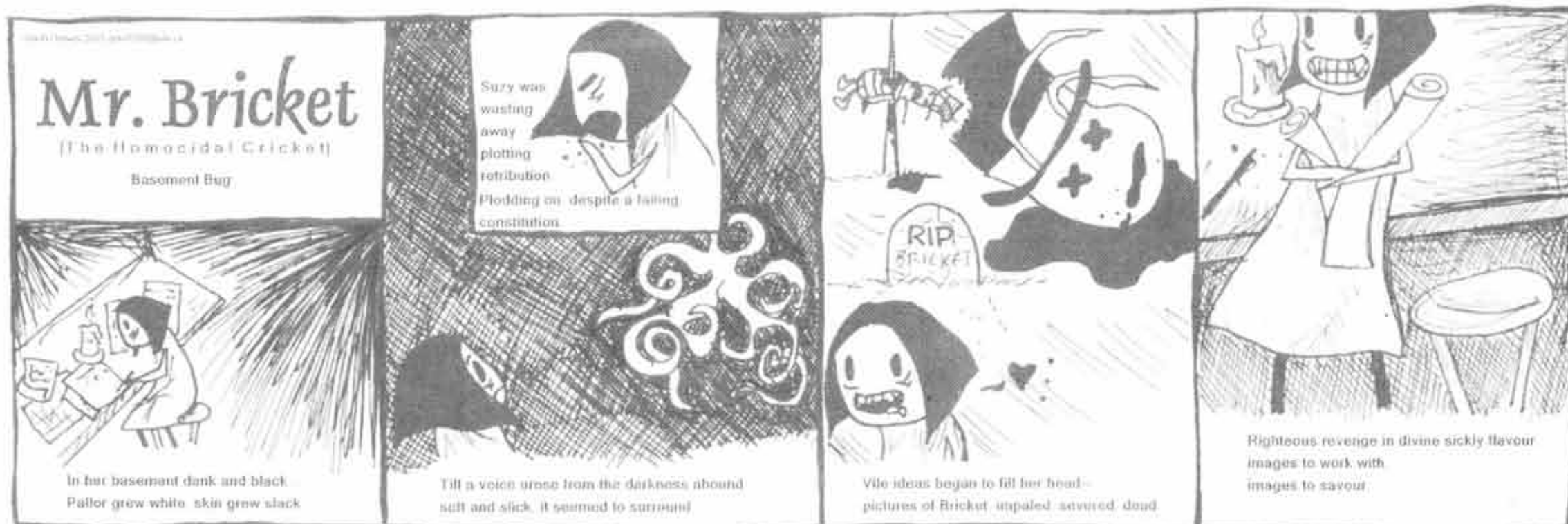
January 20 - February 19



If you maintain a cheery disposition all kinds of good things will start happening to you. A close friend is going to do something that will make the two of you want to celebrate. Don't concentrate on events from the past.

Daniel Roth is a Journalism graduate of Conestoga College and is currently a Communication Studies student at Wilfrid Laurier. He has studied Astrology and other topics of that genre for almost ten years.

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Ask Kate...

Do you have to spend time with your family over Christmas even if you hate them?

Dear Kate,

I haven't been getting along with my family at all since I came to University. They never call and I never visit its been really awkward. I've been dating someone pretty much the whole time I've been at school and she asked me if I would go home with her for a week for Christmas. She knows that I have no desire to go home over the holidays and has made it clear that I don't just have to stay with her for a week but I can stay as long as I want. Despite the uneasy relationship I still think my parents would be pissed if I didn't come home at all - but honestly I really don't want to - how do I tell my parents I don't wanna come home for

the holidays? Or is that totally wrong to begin with?
The Grinch

Mr. Grinch,

That is great that your girlfriend has offered to have you stay with her over the holidays without making you feel like you have to come. She has definitely taken the right approach. However, I think that a big reason that you aren't interested in going home is because another offer has been made. And because you aren't home, you may be forgetting about friends from high school, family - not just immediate but grandparents, aunts and uncles and other things that you may have forgotten and people you

may have forgotten that are missing you.

Holidays are about spending time with people that care about you... even if you don't care about them (right now)

Talk to your parents sooner rather than later about coming home, but only for a short period. If they don't seem interested in your life at least you know you gave them the opportunity to be involved. Maybe if they knew



Cheating boyfriend? Lousy girlfriend? Messy roommate?
Ask Kate! Email advice@wlusp.com

more about your life they would be more apt to call you and visit your new environment.

When talking to them confirm you are coming home for the holidays but you just haven't decided for how long. Tell them about your girlfriend and that her family asked if you would like to come for a visit. Ask if they would like to meet her - you want them to feel like an equal priority not less or an obligation.

If they are extremely offended that you don't want to be home for all of the holidays then you should consider cutting the time with your girlfriend short. You have to remember, you get to see each other every day, I would assume, and your parents do not. Whether they know how to express it or not your parents have probably missed you deeply.

I am going to get a little sappy and tell you what you already know - the holidays are about spending time with people that you care about and people that care about you. One of those people is your girlfriend but there is a group of people, family and old friends, who will undoubtedly feel left out if you don't make an effort to spend time with them as well. Go home and make the best out of it. Spend time with your girlfriend and her family, but she will understand when you need to be home.

Always, Kate.

Kate Ziegler appears in the Ask Kate advice column weekly. If you would like to ask Kate a question send it to advice@wlusp.com. Identity is confidential. All questions are welcome!

Food for Thought

Restaurant: Ennio's Pasta House
Address: 384 King Street N.
Phone: (519) 893-0543
Type: Italian
Cord's Rating:



JESSICA MCLAUGHLIN
 Student Life Editor

When it comes to food, there is no doubt in this German's mind that Italians are synonymous with the preparation, partaking and the entire eating experience in general. They know good food and take the time and the effort to make all their meals with the same care and effort they would take if they were cooking for the Queen. These are indeed lofty expectations to have when eating Italian food, and what I anticipate from Italian food is definitely a stereotypical view of how it is always prepared. That being said, Ennio's Pasta House was up against some high standards before I even stepped in the door for

dinner.

The moment we entered I had a good feeling about the place. Recognizably Italian music playing in the background combined with a friendly atmosphere made for the dining room to be a very welcoming and enjoyable place to be. Add a fireplace, nicely patterned windows, authentic décor, olive oil and candlelight at the table and you have a fabulous dining atmosphere. I had to order wine with an Italian meal and my choice was the Folonari Valpolicella Classico for the very good price of \$4.75 a glass.

After our order was taken, fresh buns were brought out with a starter salad that comes with the purchase of any main course. I had the house Italian and my friend had the Caesar, they were excellent palate teasers. I was also impressed with the small bowl of olive oil and balsamic that was brought out to dip the bread in, a truly authentic Italian touch.

Our appetizers were next to be brought out. My friend ordered the calamari rustica (\$7.99), which came out on romaine leaves and was a

combination of breaded golden fried squid tossed in a spicy white wine and bell pepper sauce. It was very flavourful and spicy and was unlike any other calamari I have ever tasted. My chosen appetizer was the pinzimonio platter (\$12.99) which consisted of six prosciutto wrapped shrimp and skewered marinated flank steak with a garlic dipping sauce. The shrimp were good and went well with the sauce, but the flank steak stole the spotlight. It was savoury and tender and practically fell off the skewer, and add some great presentation and you get one of the best appetizers I have ever had. Other starters include escargot, crab cakes bruschetta, garlic fingers, and stuffed portobello caps among many more and run from about \$5.99 to \$12.99.

Our dinners came out next, brought swiftly by our server who gave us impeccable service all night. My friend chose the pepper steak penne (\$15.83) and I decided on fassili with tiger shrimp and vegetables (\$14.29). His penne came with strips of peppered steak, portobello mushrooms and bell peppers in a red wine sauce and was impressive by his account. My fassili was very good, the combination of red peppers, spinach, and zucchini with the blush sauce I chose (you get the choice of blush or alfredo) complemented each other nicely, although a few more vegetables would have been nice. There are over 25 authentic pasta dishes on the menu, along with other Italian favourites like veal parmesan, New York steak and a large selection of pizzas, with prices from around \$9 to \$17 dollars.

The main courses were very filling and to this point in the meal, Ennio's had met

or surpassed all my standards for Italian food and dessert was still on the way. Our server brought the desserts out on a tray so we could see what we were going to be ordering, which ended up being a chocolate truffle cake for my friend and tiramasu pudding for myself.

The cake was good according to my friend and my tiramasu was outstanding. The perfect finish to a great meal. With standards for Italian food as high as mine are, especially when you factor in

the good things I had heard of the place, you may have thought that Ennio's would have never been able to satisfy. But perhaps against the odds, Ennio's came through with flying colours and the prices were very reasonable and would fit the budget of any university student. By meeting and exceeding my expectations, Ennio's was one of my more enjoyable dining experiences and would receive a recommendation from me any day of the week.



Contributed Photo

Good any day of the week, Ennio's satisfies the palate and the bank account.

Grade point what?

Despite how much thought some of us give to grades, GPA says zip about who we are



Staff Writer

Erika Ivanic

A, B, C, D, E, F? You know how the rest goes. But it is these first six letters of the alphabet that are of cosmic importance in the life of a Laurier student.

Funny how interchangeable and arbitrary grades can be. They have the power to make or break your day, lift your spirits or send you catapulting into an abyss of nothingness. Perhaps I'm being a little melodramatic here but grades, for the most part, do strongly influence one's mood.

Nonetheless, sometimes the foundation on which marking rests is questionable, particularly in the Arts department. Many students experience the phenomenon of receiving an 'A' without studying in one course, while barely passing another after spending a solid week locked in their room with their books. On the other hand, moments do occur when marks are consistent with

the amount of work put in.

While the criteria for grading varies depending on the course, a B-minus average is generally regarded as the standard for a class. Anything beneath this grade point is regarded as below average while anything higher is deemed above average.

This word brings a few synonyms to mind that include ordinary, common, regular and typical. Each stresses the importance of being like everyone else and most people strive to fit into this accepted norm. So my question to you all is, what is "normal"? Does anyone possess the right to define and judge the norm? Why does such a term even have to exist? Can't we all just be ourselves without being measured on a scale from 1-10 or A-F?

Whether a GPA is calculated out of four or fifteen, it reflects nothing about who we really are. All it genuinely illustrates are time management skills, a general grasp or memorization of the material and the ability to give professors what they ask for. Grades are such an inaccurate representation of the actual learning process which, for the most part,

truly does take place outside of the classroom.

Yet, it is impossible to reject the notion of grades because of the way society is structured. High grades are necessary to remain in school, to graduate and to apply for further schooling; you just can't have one without the other. We are forced into a mutual dependence on grades in order to meet our own ends.

School, however, is just the beginning, a microcosm of the various systems which together compose our society at large. Whether consciously or not, we are graded throughout our entire lives. After school, this continues to apply in the work force as we are measured according to the number of figures in our salary that supposedly reflect our status. Everything we are can be reduced to a figure. At this rate, it will only be a matter of time before we are represented by a single barcode that reveals all of our pertinent information with the aid of a simple scanning mechanism.

There is no doubt that far too much emphasis is placed on numbers and far too little on the process of learning. We need to concentrate our energy on life beyond grades and refuse to be subjected to the standard. In short, we need to regain our humanity.

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Lady hawks lose in Toronto

The Lady Hawks lose to both Ryerson and Toronto, but are still in second place in the OUA west

DANIEL WILSON
Staff Writer

After starting the season undefeated at four wins and zero losses, the Laurier Women's Basketball team was brought back to reality with two painful losses in Canada's largest city. On Friday night, the Golden Hawks came up on the short end of a 78-71 shootout against University of Toronto. On Saturday night, the Lady Hawks were blown away 70-55 by Ryerson.

Laurier 71 Toronto 78

Friday night showcased undefeated Toronto, the top team in the OUA East, matched against undefeated Laurier, the top team in the OUA West. Something had to give in this affair, but it wasn't the offense. The Hawks shot 38.7% from the floor, while Toronto shot 41.7%. Laurier was also outrebounded 38 to 31 on the boards. Dee Channer had a very impressive game with 23 points and seven rebounds for the Lady Hawks.

Brilynn Ferguson led the way for Toronto with 24 points on 11 for 13 shooting, and nine rebounds. The difference proved to be that Toronto had more scoring depth on this evening. Nikki Doucet chipped in with 18 points on 7 for 12 shooting for Toronto. Laurier's second scoring threat was Meaghan "Mugsy" McGrath who was held to only 11 points.

While Friday's game was within reach, Saturday's game was one that Laurier would like to forget about. Coming into the contest, Laurier seemed like they were poised to rebound from the previous evening with a strong showing against the two and one Ryerson Rams. All signs pointed to this in

the opening minutes with McGrath hitting a trey to open the Laurier scoring and Robin Roszell establishing an inside game early. However, fatigue must have set in early as the Hawks had difficulty finding the bottom of the net, showed tremendous gaps in their defense and committed a series of costly turnovers.

When this nightmare ended, the stats sheet gave a fairly accurate representation of the night's horrors. Ryerson shot 47.5% from the field compared to 25.8% from Laurier. The Hawks were outrebounded 48 to 28 on the glass by a much hungrier Rams squad. Ryerson finished with 19 assists compared to 8 by Laurier. These numbers are enough to give any head coach a headache. This could be seen by the frustration expressed by Stu Julius, particularly with the lack of effort on the defensive end.

The combination of Tamara Alleyne-Gittens and Asha Maire Forrester caused all sorts of problems for the Laurier defense. Alleyne-Gittens moved around the basket at will and finished a tremendous game with 19 points and 14 rebounds. Forrester looked sharp contributing 19 points in just 19 minutes of playing time. Besides these two offensive threats, Ryerson got produc-

Laurier 50 Ryerson 70

tion from their entire roster. The Rams certainly did not protect the basketball well, as they committed 24 turnovers compared to 15 by Laurier. However, Ryerson was able to connect on open shots, create great ball movement and push the ball down the floor to set up numerous fast break opportunities.

The Laurier Women's Basketball team can take



www.laurierathletics.com

A Laurier player looks for some help, but seemingly can't find any. Laurier lost to Ryerson 70 - 55 at Ryerson. However, the Hawks still remain in second in the OUA West standings.

some positives out of this affair. Meaghan McGrath did her thing from 3-point territory and finished with 21 points (all from beyond the arch). Robin Roszell did a commendable job for the Laurier front court in the first half of the game. She was able to get to the basket and was rewarded with an 8 for 8 performance from the foul line. At times in the game, the Hawks showed hustle for loose balls and implemented an effective full court press strategy. Unfortunately for the Hawks, these were just about all the bright spots that could be found on a long night at West Kerr Hall in downtown Toronto.

Asked which factor hurt the team the most, guard Kerri Jilesen singled out the offense, "Basically, our shots weren't dropping. Personally, I felt that I had a terrible game. We have to put this game behind us and focus on next Saturday's game against Windsor."

While Jilesen found fault

in her game, she certainly was not alone. One night after leading the team with 23 points, forward Dee Channer was held off the scoring sheet with 0 for 6 shooting from the floor. Couple this with no trips to the charity stripe, and Laurier was forced to ride the hot hand of Meaghan

McGrath for the majority of the game. The return of post Heather Sutherland from injury should give the team a much needed presence in the front court. Right now, it is anticipated that Sutherland will play her first game against the Windsor Lancers at home this Saturday afternoon.

Women's basketball standings

Conference: OUA West

School	GP	W	L	PF	PA
Brock	6	5	1	422	339
Laurier	6	4	2	412	375
Guelph	6	4	2	366	306
Western	4	2	2	216	199
McMaster	5	2	3	269	284
Waterloo	5	1	4	273	341
Windsor	4	1	3	244	273
Lakehead	4	0	4	247	309

Hawks blow out Waterloo 7 - 1

Hawks blast Waterloo, but lose to Western 6 - 2

TJ HILL
Staff Writer

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawk men's hockey team took their undefeated record into Clarica Arena last Thursday to take on the Waterloo Warriors.

Hawk blueliner Malcolm Hut got the visitors on the board 36 seconds into the

contest and the Hawks never looked back. Outshooting Waterloo 58-3, Laurier

Laurier 7 Waterloo 1

trounced Waterloo 7-1.

Other goal scorers for the Hawks were Nik Vukovic,

Tim Parsons, Brian Kazarian and three from Pat McCoubry.

While the victory was sweet, the purple and gold didn't have much time to celebrate as they were in London Saturday night to battle the Western Mustangs.

Special teams would be the difference in what was a physical affair. Western's four power play goals and two short-handed markers were good enough for a 6-2 victory.

The difference between this game and past meetings between the two clubs was that Laurier was the more dominant team at even strength. Assistant captain Bill Duncan commented on the untimely penalties Laurier took, "five on five we outplayed them. We out-shot them, out-hit them, had more scoring chances, we just took some stupid penalties that killed our momentum".

Brandon Merli was the lone goal scorer for the Hawks as he added two in the losing effort.

Midway through the second period the Mustangs put

the game out of reach. After a five-minute major penalty was assessed to Laurier captain Brian Kazarian for

Laurier 2 Western 6

slashing, the Hawks took another two minute roughing penalty to put them down two men.

Western capitalized as they found the net twice on the extended power play. In a game with a number of penalties Laurier was not without its chances. "The refs weren't great, they were a lit-

tle inconsistent, but we had chances as well and couldn't capitalize," said Duncan.

The loss was the Hawks first of the campaign. Despite their impressive record this season the Hawks sit at third place in the Ontario University Athletics Midwest division. They are currently three points behind last year's division winners, the York Lions, with two games in hand.

This weekend Laurier is back home as they welcome The McGill Redmen and Ottawa Gee Gees Saturday and Sunday at the Waterloo Recreation Complex.

OUA men's hockey standings

School	GP	W	L	PF	PA
Brock	8	7	1	37	19
York	8	6	2	34	29
Laurier	6	4	1	26	15
Guelph	8	3	5	27	36



www.laurierathletics.com

Laurier centre Rob Grant looks for the back of the net.

Vanier Cup weekend kicks off

The St. Mary's Huskies and Laval Rouge will battle at skydome for University Football's greatest prize

BERNARD DAWSON
Staff Writer

The march toward the Vanier Cup continued last weekend with the Mitchell and Uteck Bowls. The luck of the McMaster Marauders finally ran out as the Laval Rouge et Or knocked them out late in the contest, while the St. Mary's Huskies put the boots to the Simon Fraser Clan.

The Marauders cemented their reputation as the Atlanta Braves of Canadian football with the loss. Mac has won the last four OUA Championships, but has lost in the CIS semifinals every year. This season, the job of ending McMaster's Vanier Cup hopes fell to the Laval Rouge et Or.

The game was played at Ivor Wynne Stadium in front of a crowd of 11,000 specta-

tors. The fans were treated to an excellent game which saw Laval take an early lead and Mac fighting back to take a late lead in the contest.

The Rouge et Or grabbed a 22-5 advantage early in the match and held a 22-11 lead when the first half ended. The Marauders were loath to quit however, and they fought back to tie the score 29.

A Michael Ray field goal gave the Marauders a 32-29 lead late in the fourth quarter and it looked like Mac might break their streak and make it to the Vanier Cup. But it was not to be for the Marauders.

Quebec conference MVP QB Mathieu Bertrand returned the lead to Laval with a John Elway-like drive. Bertrand marched his team down the field on a six play,

86 yard drive, capped with the QB running in a score from 30 yards out. Laval would hold their lead for the final two minutes and when the final buzzer sounded the score was Laval 36, Mac 32.

Out in the wonderful city of Halifax, St. Mary's beat up on another opponent. This time it was the Simon Fraser Clan who were on the receiving end of the Huskies onslaught. When the smelling salts finally woke SFU up, the score was 60-9.

AUS conference MVP Les Mullings won game MVP honours with a two touch-down performance. The running back gained 122 yards on 13 carries, and even recorded three special teams tackles in his effort.

This one was over in the first quarter and the 5,800 fans who filled the stadium had a chance to sit back and relax since there was no real football game on the field.

This means that Saturday's Vanier Cup match-up in Toronto will feature the St. Mary's Huskies and the Laval Rouge et Or. The two teams met in the 1990 edition of the Vanier Cup and Laval came away with a 14-10 victory.

Earlier this season there was a Vanier Cup preview. Laval walked into Halifax and smacked the Huskies 49-8, handing the two defending CIS Champs their only loss of the season in the process.

If one would like to watch the Vanier Cup at the Skydome, I'm sure that plenty of good seats are still available.



Contributed Photo

St. Mary's wide receiver Atnas Maeko and the gang look to beat Laval in the 2003 Vanier Cup this weekend at Skydome.

Jeffries named coach of the year

Ten Laurier football players named OUA all-stars

DAN POLISCHUK
Cord Intern

Gary Jeffries, head coach of Wilfrid Laurier's football team, has been named OUA coach of the year.

Jeffries, in his 26th year of coaching, guided the Hawks to an 8-2 record this year, turning it around after a dismal 2002 campaign in which the team went 1-7. The Golden Hawks improved so much that they earned a spot in the 96th Yates Cup against three-time defending champions McMaster Marauders.

"Coach Jeff" has coached more than 700 games in total at WLU, with both football and basketball. Spending 17 previous years as the football team's defensive coordinator, he has helped to produce 25 All-Canadian defensive players and guided the team's defense to rank first in the country six different times. During his tenure, Jeffries has been to 15 Yates Cups as well.

Gary Jeffries was not the only Golden Hawk to be honoured for his work this season though. Ten players were named 2003 OUA Football All-Stars. Announced to the First Team were Centre Jeff Melis, Tackle Ryan Jeffrey, Runningback Derek Medler, Defensive End Justin

Shakell, Linebacker Kevin MacNeill and Defensive Back Ian Logan.

The Second Team All-Stars consisted of Offensive Guard Mitch Zappitelli, Defensive Tackle Josh Alexander, Defensive End Tony Bretney and Free Safety David Agro.

"I'm pretty happy with it. It's nice that some members of the team got individual recognition," said Kevin MacNeill commenting on the award. "I easily would have traded it in for the Yates Cup though," he added.



OUA Coach of the Year, Jeffries also had 10 players named 2003 OUA Football All-Stars.

Men's b-ball wins at Ryerson

DEREK IWANUK
Sports Editor

The Laurier Golden Hawks Men's Basketball team took to the road this weekend to challenge the University of Toronto and The Ryerson Rams in weekend play. The Hawks started off the weekend with a 65-57 loss to the Varsity Blues.

The second game of the weekend proved to be more successful for the Hawks as they beat the Ryerson Rams 72-64. Again Rob Innes continued his strong play as he collected another team high 20 points on top of three

blocks and seven rebounds. Innes' strong performance in the game helped him earn Laurier Athlete of the Week honours, the first of his career. Point guard Wade Currie also had a strong game at the point collecting 11 points and dishing out 6 assists.

After the weekend split in Toronto the Hawks are now a respectable 2-2 in the season. The Hawks continue to strive for success as they take on the University of Waterloo on November 19th and the Windsor Lancers on the 22nd at the AC

Golden Hawks Sports Corner

Scores from other Hawks

Women's Volleyball

WLU 3 Waterloo 0

Men's Volleyball

WLU 0 Waterloo 3

Women's Hockey

WLU 1
Chinese National 1

WLU 3
Windsor 4



Constantines rock Starlight

Canadian indie rockers take a break from infatuating the college chart scenesters to hit up Waterloo

CHRIS CLEMENS
Entertainment Editor

On Saturday night I went on a mission, braving the drizzle and deadly patches of remaining snow on the sidewalk to see the Constantines at the Starlight club. Weaving our way through drunken revelers scattered along King Street, the Starlight loomed before us; an ambiguous looking place of sorts but one which is finally bringing a strong alternative music scene to Waterloo.

There is no better representative of Canadian indie music right now than the Constantines, a local tri-city band which achieved notoriety through the immense success of their first album, *Three Gut*, which ruled the Canadian college charts for months. Their success translated into a Rolling Stone

magazine appearance and a large underground fan base across the nation, making the Constantines a band to watch closely in the near future.

Anyways, before the headliner there is traditionally an opening band or "special guest", and in this case it was Sour Keys. I was battling a vicious head cold and thought it might be more beneficial to bury my head in some pillows and leave for the show halfway through their scheduled set.

I had never heard of Sour Keys. I mean, it's a delicious candy but would it really be a delicious band?

since I had never heard of Sour Keys. I mean, it's a delicious candy but would it really be a delicious band?

Oddly enough, they began their set the second we walked into the club, having been delayed by technical difficulties or something. Thankfully they were indeed edible, blending some Fugazi-like discordance with straightforward nu-garage rock. The vocals caught me the most, ranging from monotone lyrical chants to full-on screaming. Sour Keys showed a lot of musical diversity in their set, even utilizing a tambourine which I certainly have a soft spot for in rock. Their banter revealed them to be a little unconfident, which I thought was rather inappropriate when compared to their musical abilities. After flooding the stage with a group of enthusiastically dancing males, Sour Keys bowed out with their job complete. People were pumped.

Shortly after, the Constantines took the stage to a fair amount of hula-balloo. Throwing out a wide mix of songs from *Three Gut* and their latest release, *Shine*



All photos: Joanna Ricciuto

Although they may appear to be distracted by shiny guitars, devil horns and pretty women (not pictured), the Constantines were easily on top of things during their show on Saturday night

a *Light*, the Constantines were evidently out to please everyone, from the casual newcomer to the most hardcore fan. I think they even drew from some of their old school EPs a few times, but that may have been the extra-strength Tylenol talking. Regardless, they churned out their trademark swirling medley of mathematically repetitious bass and keyboard with guitars breaking in at just the right time with seemingly effortless skill. Bry Webb's vocals started out a little weak (I think the mic levels were too low) but his exuberant strength soon

broke through.

The Constantines played an extraordinarily lengthy set including a brief encore, which certainly made the ten dollar price of admission well worth it. Unfortunately, there were technical difficulties throughout the course of their performance, including broken strings and mic problems. Once, the lights went out completely, leaving the quintet playing in the dark although this could've been dramatic license. However, this didn't seem to mar anyone's enjoyment of the set - in fact, an impromptu mosh pit of sorts was started at the

back of the room towards the end of the show. I was surprised when the Constantines were finally done, as I had completely forgotten that I was ill for a few hours. I went home happy; almost killing myself on a lone patch of wet snow that hugged the sidewalk as I enthusiastically discussed the show. When you get right down to it, any band that can distract you from the amusing process of coughing up your lungs and then nearly murder you with that distraction later has to be worth checking out.



The Constantines' Bry Webb, taking a break from intensity

Love Actually fills the sap quotia

Film: Love Actually
Released: Nov. 7, 2003
Starring: Hugh Grant, Keira Knightley
Features: Happy sappy
Cord's Rating:



out of a possible 5 cords

ERIC CHOW
Cord Entertainment

This star-studded romantic comedy's basic premise, as suggested by Hugh Grant's opening voiceover, is that love exists everywhere and is quite often easily overlooked. The plot revolves around the relationships of many individuals and as a result, the film resembles ten different romantic-comedies rather than a single one. These stories of love are presented to the audience in their caterpillar stages five weeks prior to Christmas and to everyone's 'surprise' leads up to a big butterfly finale on - wait for it - Christmas Day!

Academic Value

Simply put, *Love Actually* is a fusion of academic teach-

ings. There are many examples from which academia could be extracted. One of the more obvious examples is the writings of Laura Mulvey and her discussions regarding the objectification of females within film in her "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema". In her dissemination, she argues that females were merely put onto the screen to be displayed and looked at, for they have encoded within them a "strong visual and erotic" nature which has a connotation of "to-be-looked-at-ness". However, I believe that Mulvey fails to recognize the complexities of human life which the director presents to the viewer of *Love Actually* with portrayal of the intricacy and strong will of women within the film.

Who should you see it with? Stay away... and don't let your girl drag you into watching! Let her check this one out on her own, although you'll most likely be tricked into watching this movie.

My Take

At first glance, this film seems similar to any other romantic comedy from the last twenty years: Guy meets girl, gets rejected, but ultimately GETS the girl. But to my amazement, this film was surprisingly enjoyable. *Love Actually* was filled with visual pleasures from Keira Knightley, to Claudia Schiffer, to the sexual nymphomaniac Denise

Guy meets girl, gets rejected, but ultimately gets the girl...surprise!

Richards! And its ability to merge the different love stories together without too much sap while combining some

refreshingly original humour made it more enjoyable than expected. Billy Nighy's representation of an aging British rocker is absolutely hilarious! And the Poli Sci majors out there will most likely thoroughly enjoy Grant's 'assertive' Prime Minister's stance against the American bully of a president (Billy Bob Thornton). In addition to the slightly overkill star-power of Grant, Neeson, Firth, Thompson, Atkinson, Knightley, Rickman, Linney, Nighy, Thornton and Schiffer



Contributed Photos

Oh that Hugh Grant, always playing the role of the charmingly befuddled English gentleman. It's called typecasting, Hugh!

(try saying that in one breath). First-time director Richard Curtis was also able to throw in handfuls of cameos from other A-List stars. Although *Love Actually* is irrefutably a romantic comedy, I found it very difficult to sit through the entire film without laughing.

Cheeky Fact

Did you know that for the filming of *Bend It Like Beckham*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and *Love Actually*, Keira Knightley had to be physically 'enhanced' for her roles because the directors thought that she would not be recognizable as a female?

White Stripe power

TINA BELCAMINO
Cord Entertainment

With great haste my friend and I rushed into the dark Hershey Centre, struggling to find our seats and relieved by the discovery that The White Stripes had not yet kicked off what was to be an excellent show. Instead, an old black and white Betty Boop cartoon was playing on a large screen above the stage. Our already-seated friends reassuringly informed us that we had not missed much other than the mediocre performance of the opening band (the name of which escapes me now) and a long run of Betty Boop cartoons which consisted of various male characters hopelessly pursuing the black-haired enchantress. It was only minutes later that the 1930s cartoon ended with red lights flashing upon the stage, marking the entrance of the red, white and black clad duo, Jack and Meg White.



opened with the upbeat, heart-pounding song, "Black Math" from their latest album *Elephant*. The crowd immediately leapt to their feet, eagerly recognizing the all-too-well known distorted guitar and primitive drumbeats. The Stripes followed this crowd-pleasing intro with "Dead Leaves and the Dirty Ground", the second single from their mainstream debut *White Blood Cells*.

Throughout the song, Jack White appeared to be purposely singing off key, straining through altered highs and lows and creating a sound so awful that one could not help but bask in its greatness and non-conformity. His voice, the defining signature of the band, has always stood out as unique and slightly off the wall but hearing it live developed an even greater appreciation for his offbeat vocal talent.

At the other end of the stage, Meg White pounded on her drumset with childlike enthusiasm, thrashing her long black mane while

singing along to the songs. The high point of the show began with Meg slowly walking up to the microphone where Jack stood, the crowd ecstatically cheering her arrival. As Jack backed away, giving her room, the fans screamed with anticipation and she began to sing the hauntingly beautiful ballad, "In the Cold, Cold Night". The crowd seemed to shiver as she coyly whispered the lyrics into the mic, reminiscent of Peggy Lee's "Fever". Upon ending the chilling song, the crowd roared even louder, begging for more after this tease but she shyly sauntered back to her hiding place behind the large set of red and white drums, Jack resuming the lead as vocalist and sole guitarist.

The small, two-person band, consisting of only drums and guitar (and the occasional moog), electrified the stage with such energy and exhilaration that I have yet to see a live five-piece band accomplish. Their kick-ass ninety minute set was enhanced by virtue of the fact that every song was slightly distinct from its album counterpart, including an amaz-



Contributed Photo

Jack and Meg White - the eclectically weird rockin' duo

ing, ultra-slow version of "Fell in Love With a Girl".

Throughout their career, The White Stripes have remained true to their roots and influences in white blues with a garage rock twist. They have found a fine balance between the two musical genres, bringing the long-lost heart of blues rock back into the forefront with songs like "Ball and Biscuit". This balance that The White Stripes maintains seems to be

what sets them apart from more generic, MuchMusic-pampered bands such as The Strokes, who struggle in an effort to fight conformity but eventually succumb to it because of their lack of background and diversity. The White Stripes thrive in the dying industry of rock and blues, so pray that there is much more to come from Jack and Meg White, their drumset and lone guitar.

HEAR SAY



CD: The Black Album

Artist: Jay-Z

Released: Def Jam
(Nov 14, 2003)

Features: Jay-Z's blast of a retirement party

Cord's Rating:



out of a possible 5 cords

games to an even higher level, if that's possible, for the *Black Album*. However, notable by his absence is Gang Starr's legendary DJ Premier, with whom Jay has created arguably the best handful of tracks during his illustrious career. Word on

Word on the street is that both Dr. Dre and Primo submitted tracks to Jay and he rejected them...

the street is that both Dr. Dre and Primo submitted tracks to Jay for inclusion on the *Black Album* and Jay rejected them... I guess when your name is Jay-Z you can do those types of things. Jay has also employed Eminem behind the boards for the heavy hitting 'Moment of Clarity', lending steam to the idea that Em is now on the A-list of producers in hip-hop. Little known underground producer 9th Wonder enjoys his major label debut and he is responsible for my favourite track on the *Black Album*, 'Threat', where Jay eases smoothly over the hypnotic, eerie and meticulously crafted 9th beat. In-house Roc-A-Fella producer Kanye West also contributes two standout tracks with 'Lucifer' and 'Encore'.

Is the *Black Album* perfect? I wouldn't say so. However, *The Black Album* lives up to all its hype. But Jay, one question: Where the hell is Primo?

AJ Iafrate



CD/DVD: Live 2003

Artist: Coldplay

Released: Capitol
(Nov. 4, 2003)

Features: Fan's package

Cord's Rating:



out of a possible 5 cords

British rock gods Coldplay have released a live DVD/CD combo package. This package comes with a stunning 90 minute long DVD and a CD of live tracks. After a long tour in support of their recent release *A Rush of Blood to the Head*, this is a nice treat for fans.

Hailed as the saviours of

British glum rock, Coldplay have received the reputation of being one of the most breathtaking live bands in rock. DVD is a great way of capturing any band in their performance and this one, filmed over two nights in Australia for Coldplay, is no exception.

This DVD/CD also serves as a way to look back at Coldplay's inspirational career, from Radiohead rip-offs to rock and roll heavyweights.

There are a few high points of this release. For the first time, two new Coldplay songs are available to fans officially as opposed to over the internet. "Moses" and "The One I Love" are Coldplay's newest masterpieces, which indicate the band has quite a bit more to offer the world. Also included are all the hits such as "Yellow" and "Clocks".

Most live packages are released as a way to tie down fans until the band's next release. Although Coldplay are an exceptional rock band, this live release is nothing special and will probably be truly appreciated only by dedicated fans.

Dave Ricci



CD: Payable on Death

Artist: P.O.D.

Released: Atlantic
(Nov. 4, 2003)

Features: Slight regression

Cord's Rating:



out of a possible 5 cords

Change is a funny thing. To some it is welcome thing, while others avoid it at all costs. Regardless, the adjustment period to change is a natural occurrence that must be weathered. *Payable on Death*, POD's third Atlantic release, is such a change - the first album after the bitter departure of guitarist Marcos. As new guitarist Truby enters, the band has taken a shocking change in direction. Gone are the hardcore hip-hop vocals and razor sharp screaming of Sonny. They are replaced by layered melodies and some lead work by Truby. The punk, hip-hop and funk influences have all but disappeared, paving the way for a straight-ahead rock format. This is definitely a new POD. Also lost is Marcos' musical vision that complemented his bandmates perfectly. Instead, Traa and Wuv (bass and drums) compete with grinding guitars for attention, creating a much less cohesive sound. Rest assured, this album will grow on you by the second listen. However, this adjustment period must be taken into account as the band searches for a new sound.

Jon Corbin

"Entertaining" Sex Trivia

A Sicilian father purportedly tried to take out a policy on his daughter's virginity with insurance superfirm Lloyd's of London.

Weekly Lyrics

"She said don't let it go to your head
Boys like you are a dime a dozen, she said
You're a touch overrated, you're a lush and I hate it
And these grass stains on my knees, they won't mean a thing"

Do you know these juicy emo lyrics? Sing them in the shower perhaps? Be the first to send an email with the song and artist name to wlentertainment@yahoo.ca and I'll put your name in the next issue, plus you'll get a free CD that the nice record labels give to me!

Last week:

Ian Petker was the first to guess that last week's lyrics were from Jay-Z's "Can I Get A", also known as "Can I Get a Fuck You" in certain circles. Wopty-ha, and such.

- Chris, Entertainment Editor

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PERSONALS

Polish Sausage, Shrek, Monster

C..., Rye 'n Ginger, Marnyard. Despite lack lustre cleaning efforts excluding Marnyard, I still enjoy your roomateness. Next time we'll ALL go out together.

Love, the Drunk

Sarah D.,

Thanks for the chat the other night. You are super fantastic. "Curly Haired" Jenn

My brain is fried. Get it. French Fries - fried. You know you love it.

Chesher,

Don't let the guys bug you... especially that geography major. Yes, I said geography major.

Fun Police

Amy M.,

You are such a contributor, I can't even put into words. Love you. Bad Friend

Sterling,

No more sippin' on the hater-aid. I was pleasantly surprised at your sense of humor displayed weeks ago on the bus ride home from the football game. I can honestly say I haven't laughed that hard in awhile... and you can sing - who knew? Wanna go out sometime?

Darkseid

Co-Editor,

I want a divorce. Now. Only one more week... just one more week. Your Co-Editor

Rza

You cancelled your concert. We hate you and hope you die.

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Staebler award goes to...

Lit Award for first or second time authors of creative non-fiction is claimed by Alison Watt for her book *The Last Island: A Naturalists Sojourn on Triangle Island*

THOMAS THOMPSON
Special Projects Editor

There was a touch of frost and the wind was howling after the first snowfall of the season hit Waterloo, but this did not stop well wishers and connoisseurs of Canadian Literature from attending the presentation of the 13th annual Edna Staebler award last Thursday evening in the Senate Boardroom. *The Last Island: A Naturalists Sojourn on Triangle Island* written and illustrated by Alison Watt, a narrative exploring two different summers spent on field research at Triangle Island, was this year's winner.

"This book is worth taking your time to read carefully," Dr. Rick Playle, one of the award judges commented as he introduced the book at the reception; "as a biologist this is what field work is about." Playle described how Watt captured the experience of doing field work well, saying that you are often thrown into atypical situations, and may find yourself working

very closely with fellow scientists you don't know well.

The Edna Staebler award is awarded in recognition of an author who has published their first or second creative non-fiction book that deals with an aspect of Canada. Two important factors that influence the choice of the judges: first is that the book is literary and not journalistic, and second is that it must be a compelling read.

Far from being a dry documentation about a study of ornithology, the study of birds, Watt presents the reader with two parallel narratives in the book.

First off, the experience that Watt had as a twenty three year old biology student working for another young biologist Anne Vallee studying seabirds, specifically the Tufted Puffin at the island. The narrative describes the thought, feelings and experiences of spending four months in this desolated place.

This intertwines with a narrative sixteen years later when thirty-nine year-old

Watt returns for a second time to assist a research team in the study for two weeks. The reader also learns that Watt's mentor had died two years on Triangle Island after they had spent the summer together. The book chronicles the changes that have taken place between the two different times spent on the island, and is accompanied by illustrations and water-colour painting that the Watt herself has created.

The award was presented to Alison Watt by Dr. Bob Rosehart on behalf of Wilfrid Laurier University, who sponsors and administers the award. Edna Staebler, author and literary journalist whose endowment created this award, was also in attendance. Staebler acted as a judge along with Rick Playle, Judith Miller, Joanne Tate, Len Friesen, and Kathryn Wardropper, the award administrator.

Afterwards, attendees were treated to a reading of selected passages by the author as well as an accompanying slide show of the



Congratulations... you're a star. Firm, prolonged handshakes all around. And, a nice red plaque with flowers on it.

authors work. Alison Watt currently works as a naturalist for various parks in

British Columbia and is also a poet and artist. She currently resides in Nanaimo B.C.

Opera students put on good show

1. *The Rape of Lucrecia* - Benjamin Britten

Yup, definitely missed this one, as was frantically trying to make it back to Waterloo from Toronto. Good thing there are five more.

2. *Cendrillon* - Jules Massenet

What: Based on the classic storyline that is always exciting. "Cendrillon" and the "Fairy Godmother" both had huge ranges and consistently strong voices.

Practical Humour: Although Miss Cinderella mourned "travailler Cendrillon, travailler..." (or something to that effect) over and over, the only physical labour she did in her some fifteen odd minutes was throw a table cloth and a pair of shoes into a basket - perhaps she will wash them together? Unique Touch: Fairies ("Spirits") added depth and harmony to the performance, as their voices created a layering effect to compliment each other and the two main performers.

3. *Riders in the Sea* - Ralph Vaughan Williams

Pre-narrative: Before each performance the narrator explained the storyline of each excerpt. In this case, the narrator reminded me of Jesus, so I was unable to focus on what he was saying. All narrators spoke their lines at a good volume and with confidence.

Favourite Part: Communal mourning of the death of brothers/men in the community (because so many drown, "few men live to become fathers"). Singing the family's mourning effectively conveys the depth of feeling. Instead of a non-musical "that sucks, I'm sorry to hear that," you were actually able to hear the sorrow in the soprano/alto choruses. Intermission: Guys with swords walked through the

KATIE WEST
CORD ARTS EDITOR

Last Friday and Saturday nights in a transformed Theatre Auditorium, the WLU opera classes put on quite a performance of the "Opera Excerpts," under the direction of Anne Marie Donovan, with musical directors Leslie De'Ath and Beth Ann de Sousa. The Aud was draped in black fabric and bathed in blue light, and the evening was divided into six excerpts, which varied drastically in content. Overall, the Friday evening opera was a showcase of huge voices and impressive stage presence set up in a well-organized performance. Who knew that Laurier had such big-voiced performers hiding in the Aird building? Here's a quick rundown of the show - excerpts of the excerpts if you will, from an amateur Opera-attendee's perspective.

milling crowds, wishing they were in the opera, hmm...

4. *The Tender Land* - Aaron Copland

Favourite Part: Adam Luther as Mr. Splinters. He sang with such a rich, clear voice - making it easy to listen to

unlike some

performers he didn't have too much vibrato and such a mellow tone.

And: It was very very funny. Are Operas allowed to do that?

5. *The Consul* - Gian-Carlo Menotti

Standout: All of it. This excerpt was definitely my favourite. Awesome.

Focus: "Oh give us back the earth and make us free" - the cries of the people trying to

deal with political and social oppression in a general administrative setting.

Favourite part: Magician/business man/three women sitting and singing together. Absolutely beautiful combination of voices, it was possibly the best chorus of the night.

Random: A humorous magician (Brandon Lewis) performing a 'now you see it, now you don't' elementary ball-in-other-hand trick made the excerpt ironically and subtly sad.

6. *La Rondine* - Giacomo Puccini

Great: attention to detail was made and the production had in a large number of cast members.

Minor But: Set-up crew. In setting up a table set for tea and two couches, when the lights went up, from their "construction" sounds, I was expecting an almost-finished house.

Overall: Who cares about the set-up crew, definitely insignificant in light of the last performance. It was a romantic final piece in a well-planned and well-executed series. Not only were the voices of Laurier's music students strong but they were good actors as well, true performers. Sure some voices faltered at times - there were sharps and flats when the singers couldn't quite reach high or low enough, but in light of how much they sang (and memorized), and the extent to which they belted it out, what performance is perfect? Although I didn't quite make it to the "I almost peed my pants" response of the opera-loving Julia Roberts in *Pretty Woman*, it was a thoroughly well performed show. Laurier's "Opera Production" takes place the weekend of February 27th of the new year.

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